

1997
11

Jordan's embassies to offer business services

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Fayez Tarawneh on Monday disclosed that all Jordanian embassies will offer investment and economic services to foreign businessmen. Dr. Tarawneh said in a meeting with representatives of trade and industry chambers that the ministry requested all Jordanian embassies to provide the necessary facilities to foreign private sector delegations in support of the national economy. Dr. Tarawneh said the ministry urged the embassies to provide several services such as hotel reservations, hiring cars, hosting receptions, and fixing appointments for them, as well as establishing a follow-up mechanism on a case-by-case basis.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تأسست من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية العربية

Ciller party expels rebel ex-minister

ANKARA (AFP) — Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller's conservative True Path Party Monday expelled a former trade minister who had collaborated with the opposition in an attempt to bring down Turkey's Islamist-led government, the Anatolia news agency said. With the expulsion of Yalim Erez, the coalition partners in Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's government effectively fell into minority with 274 members in the 550-seat parliament. Erez, who resigned from Erbakan's cabinet in late April, engineered a failed censure motion against the government last month.

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Egypt, Syria hold talks on Middle East peace

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held talks Monday with Syria's Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Minister of Foreign Affairs Farouk Al Sharaa on the Middle East peace process, officials said. Mr. Mubarak met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last week to try to move the process ahead. Syria has strongly condemned Mr. Netanyahu for refusing to swap occupied Arab lands for peace and for expanding Jewish settlements in occupied areas. Syrian-Israeli peace talks are stalled over the fate of the Golan Heights. Israel broke off peace negotiations with Syria over a year ago, before Netanyahu took office last June.

EU says too early to send envoys back to Iran

LUXEMBOURG (R) — European Union foreign ministers decided Monday that the situation was not yet right for members of their 15-nation bloc to send their ambassadors back to Iran. "We noted that the conditions for the return of our ambassadors... have not yet been met," Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van Mierlo told a news conference.

Syrian general killed in auto accident in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — A Syrian general has been killed in an automobile accident in Lebanon, where Syria deploys some 35,000 troops, the independent newspaper An Nahar reported Monday. General Malek Khatib, who was serving in Lebanon, was killed Saturday when his vehicle struck two cars driven by Lebanese nationals on the road leading from Zahle to Baalbeck in the Bekaa Valley, the newspaper said. Lebanese police said, meanwhile, that five Syrian civilians and five Lebanese were killed in a head-on collision in northern Lebanon Monday. The accident occurred on the road leading to the northern port of Tripoli, near the border with Syria, police said.

U.N. recommends Iraqi oil deal for another 6 months

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan Monday recommended a six-month renewal of the "oil-for-food" deal for Iraq, U.N. officials said. In a report to the Security Council, Mr. Annan said the plan, which expires June 7, should be extended. The current deal calls for \$2 billion worth of oil sales over six months so Baghdad can buy food and medicine for its people, suffering from U.N. trade sanctions imposed in August 1990 when Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait.

Qadhafi will not attend OAU summit

HARARE (AFP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has changed his plans and will not attend the Organisation of African Unity summit in Harare. The official Ziana news agency reported Monday.

Chirac asks rival to form next government; Jospin worries EU

PARIS (AFP) — French Socialist Party leader Lionel Jospin took over as prime minister on Monday, saying his new left-wing government will be in place within the week, after his upset election victory that dealt a humiliating blow to conservative President Jacques Chirac.

Mr. Chirac, who narrowly defeated Mr. Jospin in presidential elections only two years ago, summoned Mr. Jospin to the Elysee Palace to ask him to form a new government. Earlier Mr. Chirac accepted the resignation of his friend and aide of 20 years, former Prime Minister Alain Juppe, 51.

Mr. Jospin, a 59-year-old high-principled former professor, immediately announced that he would form a government "soon, within the week."

Mr. Jospin called the atmosphere at his meeting with Mr. Chirac "excellent."

The Socialist victory worried France's EU neighbors, since Mr. Jospin will be forced to rely on support from the Euro-sceptical communists in the new parliament.

In Paris, the franc weakened to 5.83 to the dollar but rallied against the mark at 3.3720 after falling to 3.3860. The bourse's CAC 40 index initially lost 3.3 points to 2,498.75, but recovered with a 2.23 percent gain at 2,641.53 shortly before the close.

Operators said they were waiting to see the make-up of the Jospin government in the hope there would be no communist ministers.

According to final results Monday, the Socialists and their Green and other allies had 318 seats in the 577-seat National Assembly, depending on the communists' 38 seats to take them past the 289-seat majority, while the conservatives fell to 257 seats compared with 478 in the old parliament.

Mr. Jospin quadrupled his party's seats from 56 to more than 240.

Communist Party leader Robert Hue said after a meeting of its parliamentary group that the party was still waiting for "concrete proposals" from the Socialists on the minimum wage and on taxation before deciding whether to take part in the government.

Speaking at the scale of

his victory became clear, Mr. Jospin said he would use it to pursue a "new policy" for France and to push for a "reorientation" of Europe.

He cited as a top priority "the reorientation of the construction of Europe, to which we are committed."

For the first time ever, the Greens made their parliamentary debut, winning eight seats after forming an electoral alliance with the Socialists. The far-right National Front won just one seat, despite its record 14.94 per cent showing in first round voting.

Conceding defeat, Mr. Juppe said "we must analyse the reasons for this failure, we must start rebuilding a political force."

Leftwing supporters parted into the early hours on Monday to celebrate the left's return to power four years after they were routed by the right in 1993.

Mr. Chirac dissolved parliament on April 21, 10 months before he needed to, in the hope of securing a conservative majority in parliament for the next five years until 2002, when his own mandate comes to an end.

Mr. Chirac argued he needed a free hand to take France into Europe's economic and monetary union, but his critics said he was planning another dose of austerity to meet the terms for EMU.

Mr. Jospin has said that

(Continued on page 7)

French Socialist Party head Lionel Jospin places his finger on his lips to ask the crowd for silence upon arrival to celebrate a stunning parliamentary election triumph with party supporters in Paris on Monday (Photo by Reuters)

Israel wants to protect threatened land dealers

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel moved Monday to halt a spate of execution-style murders of Arabs who sold property to Jews, offering protection to threatened land dealers and demanding that Yasser Arafat's Palestinian National Authority (PNA) arrest the killers.

"The Palestinian (National) Authority must stop killing Arabs and take action against those responsible for these slayings," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Israel Radio.

Mr. Netanyahu held an urgent meeting of his top security aides Monday after the third murder in a month of a Palestinian accused of selling land to Jewish settlers.

After Palestinian real estate agents complained to the Israeli media over the weekend that nothing was being done to protect them, Mr. Netanyahu Monday ordered arrest warrants to be issued for Palestinian security officials suspected of involvement in the recent slayings, his office said.

The meeting also issued a "strong protest" to the PNA over the killings.

National police chief Assaf Hefetz said after the meeting that his forces would step up security around Palestinian property dealers who hold Israeli residency cards and are threatened with death.

(Continued on page 7)

Palestinian 'land dealer' denies being kidnapped

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A Palestinian who Israeli officials claimed had been kidnapped by Palestinian security agents under suspicion of selling land to Jews went willingly with the agents, his son told AFP on Monday.

"My father was requested to appear by Palestinian police in Ramallah. He went willingly and was not forced," said Mohammad Rajabi, denying that his father, Asad Rajabi, was involved in land deals.

"Everything the Israelis have said in the case is completely untrue. They are just looking to raise a case against the Palestinian National Authority (PNA),"

he said.

Jerusalem police chief Yair Itzhaki said Sunday that police had arrested six Palestinian security agents the night before after a high-speed car chase as they attempted to kidnap Asad Rajabi from east Jerusalem to the West Bank self-rule city of Ramallah.

Mr. Itzhaki said Mr. Rajabi was under suspicion by the PNA of selling land in the West Bank and east Jerusalem to Israeli settlers.

After the arrests, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stepped up his criticism of the PNA on Monday and blamed it for the murder of three Palestinian land dealers over the past month, the latest on

Saturday night.

He demanded the authority prosecute the killers and back off its crackdown against Palestinians involved in land sales to Israelis.

But Mr. Mohammad denied his father was involved in land sales and said Israel was making up the story of his father's kidnapping to damage the PNA image.

"My father has no connection in the least to land sales. He's a newspaper vendor. There was no kidnapping, there were no land sales," he said.

(Continued on page 7)

Kurdish rebels step up attacks inside Turkey

ANKARA (AP) — Turkish Kurdish rebels stepped up attacks in southeast Turkey Monday, as a cross-border offensive by the Turkish military against rebel bases in northern Iraq entered its third week.

Rebels of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) ambushed two trucks in Siirt province, killing the driver, injuring two other people and setting the vehicles on fire, the Anatolia news agency reported.

In Bingol province, rebels stopped a bus at a roadblock and took money and jewelry from the passengers.

The PKK has been fighting for autonomy within Turkey for 13 years. The war has cost some 28,000 lives.

Turkish troops crossed into northern Iraq on May 14, to wipe out rebel bases used to launch attacks on Turkey.

Arab ambassadors to the United Nations have condemned the incursion. Foreign Ministry spokesman Sermet Atacarli on Sunday called the criticism "unjustified."

"I hope they will understand Turkey's legitimate security concerns better in the future," Mr. Atacarli told reporters.

Turkish troops will be withdrawn when their mission is accomplished.

The military denies reports it is setting up a buffer zone inside Iraq and says it will pull out after the Kurd bases are destroyed.

(Continued on page 7)

Crown Prince and Hansen mark completion of UNRWA projects

UNRWA commissioner hopeful donor countries will resolve financial troubles

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday said that the assistance extended by Jordan and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for the Palestinian refugees is not a substitute for their right to return back or receive compensation.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of a carpentry workshop at UNRWA's Wadi Seer training centre, which was expanded and equipped through a donation from the Japanese government, the Crown Prince urged donor countries to fulfil their commitments to the Palestinian people.

"What we are doing here (in terms of the services and support Jordan continues to offer to Palestinian refugee camps) has nothing to do with compromising the political aspirations of

the Palestinian people. On the contrary, it has every thing to do with keeping those aspirations alive," Prince Hassan said in the ceremony to celebrate the completion of projects which started in 1995, costing a total of \$4.4 million.

The Crown Prince stressed that Jordan's effort to improve the living conditions in refugee camps must not be confused with UNRWA's political mandate of which Jordan is fully supportive.

He added that the Kingdom, which hosts 41 per cent of total Palestinian refugees in the diaspora, will continue to shoulder its responsibilities towards all segments of the Jordanian society. "Focusing on human dignity and improving quality of life contributes to maintaining stability and progress in Jordan and keeping the issue of Palestinian refugees alive," Prince Hassan said.

(Continued on page 7)

King celebrates Independence Day with the citizens of Balqa

SALT (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday expressed his deep pride in the citizens of Balqa, their loyalty and dedicated work for Jordan, saying that Salt, the governorate's principal city, has offered a great deal towards the development of the country and it will continue to be in the forefront serving Jordanians and Arabs at large.

"I do remember a great deal of dear brothers from Salt who had worked with me for this country and shouldered the responsibility and I have always known them to be honest, loyal and courageous people who were determined to serve the coming generations," King Hussein said at a ceremony for the inauguration of the new premises of the Balqa governor's office attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, senior officials and dignitaries.

Referring to the Kingdom's achievements since its independence, the King said the country is proud to have accomplished what it did with steadfastness and resolve.

He said the gathering in Amman by 162 participants in the meetings of the U.N. International Leadership Academy is a recognition of the country's achievements and an honouring for its people.

(Continued on page 7)

His Majesty King Hussein shares a joyous moment with a child during celebrations of the Kingdom's independence held in Salt, Monday (Photo by Youssef Allan)

In reference to the educational institution in Salt, he said that they produced many leaders who offered great service to their nation singling out the Salt Secondary School in particular which he said had graduated many prominent Jordanian public figures. He said: "We should concentrate on the question of education, culture and national belonging in the manner that existed at the Salt Secondary School."

(Continued on page 7)

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and UNRWA's Commissioner General Peter Hansen tour Wadi Seer Vocational Training Centre, Monday (Photo by Boghos)

(Continued on page 7)

A new generation to take the reins of Israel's Labour Party

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's opposition Labour Party elects a new leader Tuesday to succeed veteran politician Shimon Peres, with former army chief Ehud Barak of the party's hawkish right-wing favoured for victory.

More than 166,000 Labour militants are eligible to participate in the vote, which will see a new generation take the reins from Peres, 73, and his contemporaries who built both the party and the Israel 50 years ago.

Leading the field of four candidates running for the post of Labour chairman is Mr. Barak, a 54-year-old ex-general and security hard-liner who presents himself as the natural heir to assassinated former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Barak, the army's most decorated soldier who served as foreign minister under Peres until Labour's election defeat in May 1996, claims to be the only one capable of beating Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the next national elections scheduled for the year 2000.

According to the latest

opinion poll published Friday, Mr. Barak was set to garner 51 per cent of the militants' votes, well above the 40 per cent needed to be elected outright without a run-off.

His main rival is Yossi Beilin, a key architect of the Oslo peace process under Rabin and Mr. Peres and a leader of the Labour left wing.

Friday's poll gave him 25 per cent of the vote, ahead of Ephraim Sneh, another former general from the party's right credited with four per cent, and centrist Shlomo Ben-Ami with eight per cent.

The run-up to Tuesday's vote has been dominated by an awkward and bitter struggle between Mr. Barak and Mr. Peres, a tenacious political insider who lost a last minute battle to retain a significant voice in the party even after his replacement as chairman.

Mr. Peres, saying he wanted to play an active role in trying to save the peace process from the nationalist policies of the Netanyahu government, had sought to create for himself a new position of party president.

Mr. Barak quashed the bid at a party leadership convention last month.

Arguing that the presidency, although theoretically honorary, would undermine his future leadership and ability to prepare the party for its next election battle, Mr. Barak got more than 60 per cent of the party leaders to vote against the Peres camp.

With the outcome of Tuesday's election a foregone conclusion, the only real suspense centres on two issues — whether the internal feuding will discourage militants from voting and what Mr. Peres' attitude will be to the new leadership.

Party election commissioner Eli Dean said his target for voter turnout was 60 per cent, but many observers saw this as unrealistic given the low level of morale following Labour's defeat by Mr. Netanyahu and the right-wing nationalist camp.

Mr. Peres for his part has declined to come out publicly for any of the candidates, although Beilin was for years one of his closest collaborators.

Mr. Barak only entered

politics two years ago and his rapid rise to power, outspoken self-confidence and rightist positions have led critics to charge he is little more than a carbon copy of Mr. Netanyahu.

Throughout the party election campaign, Mr. Barak has kept his policy positions deliberately vague.

Last month he only reluctantly went along with a change to the Labour Party platform expressing conditional support for the creation of a Palestinian state as the final outcome of the Oslo peace process launched by Rabin and Mr. Peres.

Mr. Barak had in the past strongly opposed Palestinian statehood and in September 1995 abstained in a cabinet vote on the interim peace accord signed by Peres which extended Arab autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Echoing what has now become government policy under Mr. Netanyahu, Mr. Barak charged at the time that the Oslo accords did not provide acceptable security guarantees for Israelis and Jewish settlers in the occupied territories.



ISRAELI SOLDIERS BEAT JOURNALISTS: Two Israeli soldiers use metal clubs to beat a Palestinian television cameraman during scuffles on Monday that broke out as Palestinians protesting the Israeli attempt to fence off Arab-owned land in a part of Gaza under Israeli control. Palestinians said Israeli troops near the Jewish settlement of Morag injured five Palestinians when soldiers attacked the crowd demonstrating against land confiscation. An Israeli spokesman said the fence was intended to protect flower plantations belonging to the Jewish settlement from thieves (Photo by Reuters)

Lebanon fishermen seek truce panel intervention

TYRE (AFP) — Lebanese fishermen called Monday on the Beirut government to lodge a complaint to the international truce committee over Israel's sea blockade of southern Lebanon ports.

The fishermen staged a protest, the second in less than a week, at the port of the southern city of Tyre, said Mohammad Bawwab, president of the fishermen's union.

They called on the government to file an official complaint to the truce committee — made up of France, Lebanon, Israel, Syria and the United States — set up to monitor a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Lebanese guerrillas in southern Lebanon.

The Israeli navy has imposed the blockade since May 19 when a member of

the pro-Syrian Amal movement tried to sink a gunboat off Tyre by launching a suicide attack in a fishing boat loaded with explosives. But the fishing boat exploded and the guerrilla was killed when the Israeli gunboat launched a pre-emptive missile strike. Mr. Bawwab said the sea blockade has affected 2,000 families in the Tyre region.

The truce committee was drawn up under the April 1996 truce agreement that put an end to Israel's 17-day Grapes of Wrath offensive against the Iranian-backed Hizbollah in southern Lebanon.

Under the terms of the accord, combatants from both sides are prohibited from targeting civilians or launching attacks from civilian areas.

'PNA behind illegal Jerusalem building'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — At the direction of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Palestinians in Arab east Jerusalem have built more than 1,000 homes or additions without permits in the last six months, an Israeli newspaper said Monday.

Mayor Ehud Olmert called the illegal building "a cancer that directly threatens Israel's sovereignty in Jerusalem," and said it could not be ignored. "It is my intention to prepare for massive enforcement, including intensive carrying out of demolition orders," he told the Haaretz daily. "I don't plan on compromising anymore on anything."

Israel and the Palestinians are engaged in a fierce battle over the future of east Jerusalem, seized by Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and claimed by the Palestinians as a future capital.

The status of the city is to be negotiated as part of talks on a permanent peace agreement. But the two sides, with their relations in a deep crisis, have accused each other of trying to create facts on the ground instead of negotiating.

Haaretz said the PNA had told east Jerusalem's 180,000 Palestinian residents not to apply for building permits from the city, and that the Palestinian Housing Committee was funding some of the illegal construction. The handful of city inspectors assigned to east Jerusalem cannot handle the flood of illegal building, the newspaper said.

Ziad Abu Ziad, a Palestinian legislator from

Jerusalem, denied that construction in east Jerusalem was being carried out at the direction of the PNA.

"This is a big lie," he told the Associated Press.

Mr. Ziad said Israeli policies have created a serious housing shortage in east Jerusalem, and many people are forced to build illegally because they cannot get permits from the city.

Palestinian and Israeli civil rights activists have accused Israel of discriminatory housing policies in Jerusalem in order to restrict the city's Arab population.

Amir Cheshin, a former adviser on Arab affairs to two Jerusalem mayors, has said that while Jewish residents of Jerusalem can get building permits within weeks, Palestinians sometimes wait three to five years for a permit — part of a deliberate effort to maintain the city's 1967 demographic balance of 72 per cent Jews and 28 per cent Arabs.

Mr. Olmert, however, insisted there was no serious housing shortage.

"They want to build without licences, not because they can't get licences, but because doing so symbolises their non-recognition of us as the authority in the city," he told Israel Radio.

David Bar Ilan, a top aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has said that because of illegal construction, there is more Arab building than Jewish building per capita in east Jerusalem, and that the Arab population of the city has grown from 25 per cent in 1967 to 30 per cent now.

Committee to present plan for El Al sale

TEL AVIV (R) — A committee formed to study the privatisation of El Al Israel Airlines will present its recommendations to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Monday afternoon, government officials said.

It was not immediately known when the prime minister would begin deliberations on the plan.

Government sources said last week that the committee would recommend selling 100 per cent of the state carrier on the Tel Aviv bourse in the first half of 1998.

The committee, headed by Mr. Netanyahu's economic adviser Moshe Leon, advises selling all of the government holdings at once, in shares and warrants.

A major obstacle to privatisation — a prohibition against flying on the Jewish Sabbath — would also be dealt with under the committee's plan, which would allow El Al to fly on the Sabbath as long as it did not increase overall air traffic on that day. That would mean that the number of incoming and outgoing flights from Friday evening to Saturday evening would remain at the present level. The committee believes this would be acceptable to the religious parties.

The committee also recommends setting aside funds before privatisation to guarantee full compensation for workers who are sacked.

Syria softening stance on renewing peace talks

TEL AVIV (AP) — In a move that could help restart Israel-Syria peace talks, Damascus has dropped its insistence that Israel agree in advance to withdraw from the Golan Heights, an Israeli newspaper said Sunday.

The Maariv daily said the message was transmitted by Syria through Russian diplomatic channels this weekend after a trip to Moscow by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa.

Mr. Sharaa told his Russian counterpart, Yevgeny Primakov, that Syria understood the extent of any Israeli withdrawal from the strategic plateau must be negotiated with the govern-

ment of Benjamin Netanyahu, Maariv said.

At the same time, the report said Syria wants Mr. Netanyahu to embrace a series of understandings over future security arrangements between the countries which were reached in negotiations with Israel's previous Labour government.

No official confirmation of the report was available.

Syria has claimed that when the negotiations broke off in February 1996, the sides had in effect agreed to a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, which Israel seized in the 1967 war.

Mr. Netanyahu, who was elected Israel's prime minis-

ter last May, has opposed such a total pullout.

Syria has insisted that for negotiations to resume, Mr. Netanyahu must embrace all the understandings reached with Labour. But Mr. Netanyahu maintains that since no treaty was ever reached with his predecessor, he should not be bound to the understandings.

Israel has nonetheless sought a formula for restarting the talks, especially because it believes Syria holds the key to ending hostilities in southern Lebanon, where Israeli troops face a costly guerrilla war with the Hizbollah militia.

Egyptian census records decline in population rate, illiteracy

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's birth and illiteracy rates have declined and the movement of rural residents to the cities has also fallen off, according to results of the 10-yearly census, made public Monday.

"The census contains information that Egypt has begun over the past 10 years to resolve several problems, with the lowering of the rates of illiteracy, the rural exodus and population growth," census official Ihab Elwi said.

Mr. Elwi, president of the Central Authority for General Mobilisation and Statistics, said the census shows Egypt has a population of 61,452,382 compared to 50,504,238 in

1986, and is now the world's 17th most populous country.

The population growth rate has fallen to 2.1 per cent from 2.8 per cent in 1986, thanks to the country's family planning policy which went into effect at the beginning of the 1980s, he said.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Saturday that he hoped the rate "continues to fall" in order to improve living conditions in the crowded country.

The average Egyptian family has 4.6 members compared with 4.9 members 10 years ago.

Thirty-five per cent of the population is less than 15 years old. In 1986, those

under 15 comprised 38.8 per cent of the population.

The illiteracy rate dropped to 38.6 per cent last year from 49.6 per cent in 1986.

However, the number of Egyptians with university degrees represented only 7.3 per cent of the population in 1996, still up from 4.3 per cent in 1986.

Workers made up 35.4 per cent of the population in 1996 from 34.4 per cent 10 years earlier.

Mr. Elwi also noted "for the first time in contemporary history," a fall in the rural exodus, with cities home to 43 per cent of the population last year compared to 44 per cent in 1986.

In the capital Cairo, the population growth rate was 1.6 per cent, the lowest in the country.

Within the strict municipal boundaries of Cairo, the population was 6,789,479, the census said, although in greater Cairo the population is estimated at some 12 million.

The number of residents in impoverished quarters, regarded as fertile ground for fundamentalism, grew over the 10 years, the report said, adding that there were 68 such areas in Cairo and 69 in the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria.

Within the capital's city limits, one in four residents lives in a poor quarter, it said.

The census also found a decline in the number of Egyptians living abroad. In 1996, 2,180,000 were living outside Egypt, while 10 years earlier, there were 2,225,000 Egyptians residing abroad.

Mr. Elwi attributed the drop to the return of Egyptians from Iraq and Kuwait after Baghdad invaded its neighbour in August 1990.

Money sent home by Egyptians working abroad is one of the country's main sources of hard currency.

The census, which is taken every 10 years, is the 12th in contemporary Egyptian history.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:35 French Programmes
16:00 Super Sports Folies
16:30 Dog House
17:00 Square One
17:10 The Album Show
18:10 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Coach
20:00 Doc. — Tilt
20:30 Encounter
21:10 Doc — Nature of Things
22:00 News in English
22:25 West Beach
23:00 Drug Wars

PRAYER TIMES

03:52 Fajr
05:26 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:54 Dhuhr
16:14 'Asr
19:42 Maghreb
21:15 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swefieh. Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church

Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel.
661757.

Terra Sancta Church Tel.
622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church
Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel.
771751.

Amman International Church
Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 834328.

German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691.

The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Temperatures are expected to rise slightly with moderate weather conditions prevailing and winds northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman 14/31

Aqaba 21/36

Deserts 11/32

Jordan Valley 19/35

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 28, Aqaba 33 Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 29 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Ghaleb Zawalidh 736011

Dr. Hisham Kan'an 790286

Dr. Khaldoun Asfour 699440

Dr. Jihad Sammour 765018

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Nairoukh pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr 276852

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Akram Haddad 985550

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Dept 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 853200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity 644281/6

Akileh Maternity 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Musasher Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/27

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir 775111/26

Arzy, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital 0853200

(09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

08:05 Sanan (RJ)

08:05 Damascus (RJ)

10:15 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)

10



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday presents a shield to senior nurses and midwives who have served in the country's health care system for more than 25 years (Petra photo)

Queen honours senior nurses, midwives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nurses and midwives who have served for more than 25 years were honoured Monday by Her Majesty Queen Noor at the Royal Cultural Centre, a Royal Court statement said.

Queen Noor, who distributed gifts and shields among the health professionals, emphasised the importance of increasing the number of nursing and midwives cadres.

She noted that with 4,905 nurses and 904 midwives registered at the Nursing and Midwifery Council, there are approximately only 15 nurses and two midwives for every 10,000 individuals in Jordan compared to the international standard of 1,000 nurses per 10,000 individuals.

Head of the Nursing and Midwifery Union Hashim Salamah expressed his hope that "the opening of the Nursing College in Karak will help expand the number of nurses in the hospitals of the southern governorates."

Minister of Health Ashraf Kurdi said that the ministry has "hastened to establish colleges, institutes and schools for nursing throughout the Kingdom," adding that nursing has

Special fund-raisers review mission with Queen

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday met with the two British pilots, Mr. Alex Zomaya and Dr. Nigel Capps, and the members of the Anglo-Jordanian Society, who have teamed up to raise funds for cancer patients at Al Amal Centre. Queen Noor, who is the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Al Amal Centre, expressed her pride at the pilot's initiative in flying a single engine aircraft from England to Jordan in 5 days, which has enabled the Society to raise 14,000 pounds for cancer treatment in Jordan. Other plans of the Anglo-Jordanian Society include a fund-raising mountain bike tour through Jordan for the fight against cancer.

The Anglo-Jordanian Society, was established to "encourage friendship and fellowship in all spheres between Jordanians and British nationals, especially in human relationships, education, culture and business."

The Society's activities include arranging exchange visits among students and professionals, providing overseas educational programmes, and collecting, publishing and distributing technical and educational information.

President of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Dr. Abdullah Khatib attended the meeting with the Queen.

3 soldiers testify that Dakamseh threatened to shoot them

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Three Jordanian soldiers Monday testified against their colleague Ahmad Dakamseh, who is accused of killing seven Israeli schoolgirls on March 13 of this year.

Corp. Dakamseh, who pleaded not guilty last week, is charged by the military prosecution with premeditated murder, attempted murder, menacing use of a firearm and military mutiny.

The three witnesses subpoenaed by the prosecution told the court that Corp. Dakamseh had threatened to shoot them if they approached him.

"We were installing a water tank when we heard the shooting, and when we went to see what was happening, we saw Corp. Dakamseh shooting at the Israeli girls," Private Ibrahim Shawahin said.

The 32-year-old witness added: "Corp. Dakamseh pointed his M16 rifle towards us and threatened to shoot us if we came near him, then he called us cowards," Private Shawahin

told the court.

Bilal Hassan Mohammad, 20, who echoed his colleague's testimony, added that Corp. Dakamseh's rifle jammed and the soldiers managed to overpower him.

Private Mohammad said in response to a question posed by the court: "I saw the Israeli girls all wearing pants and trousers running, screaming and some were holding their hands up."

The third witness, however, Private Miqdad Ahmad Ali, 20, appeared tense and at one point failed to answer the defence's questions.

However, Private Ali, who responded similarly to his colleagues in regard to some of the court's questions, contradicted some of their testimony concerning the appearance of the Israeli schoolgirls.

"The girls were almost naked, and were tempting clothes (shorts and shirts)," he said.

His testimony also contradicted what Privates Mohammad and Shawahin had earlier said about Mr. Dakamseh not performing his prayers.

"I know that Ahmad

(Dakamseh) prays, and I saw him performing his prayers in the division on the day of the incident," he said.

The three witnesses all confirmed that the Baqoura area was frequently visited by Israeli tourists, and that there were Israeli farmers in the 500-metre area between the Jordanian-Israeli border.

The prosecution had charged that Corp. Dakamseh had confessed to planning to murder Israelis more than once.

The charge sheet also alleged that the soldier was sexually aroused by the sight of the schoolgirls.

Corp. Dakamseh, who was cheered by his family members as soon as he entered the court, was threatened several times by Presiding Judge Brigadier General Ma'moun Khasawneh with expulsion from the court room for disrupting the session.

The Dakamseh tribe, stood up clapping and ululating, as soon as Corp. Dakamseh stepped into the heavily guarded Fourth Mechanised Division auditorium in Naour.

During the five-hour court session, the defence team, headed by Attorney Hussein Mjali, who is the President of the Jordan Bar Association (JBA), contested the court's jurisdiction and the investigation procedures conducted by a military committee.

Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hijazi protested the defence's arguments alleging that "the defence team is desperately trying to politicise this case."

Attorney Ahmad Najdawi, one of several attorneys defending Corp. Dakamseh, called on the court to postpone the case to a later date to allow the defence committee more time to present written arguments justifying their arguments, a request which was immediately turned down by the presiding judge.

"The court will proceed as normal, but to ensure justice, the tribunal will allow you to present written arguments in the next court session," Judge Khasawneh told the nine-defence team members.

Two people were expelled from Monday's court ses-

sion, and a third was ordered detained by the presiding judge for interrupting the court.

Corp. Dakamseh's mother, Kamleh Hassan and her daughter Rabah, 25, both were expelled after cursing Private Shawahin during the session.

The defendant's cousin Aved Smeiran, 25, was also ordered detained by the judge after he stood up in court and told the first witness Private Shawahin "you have no honour," when he later quoted Mr. Dakamseh as telling him after the shooting incident "look at the white flesh."

Corp. Dakamseh had told an investigation committee in March that he shot the schoolgirls because they provoked him by their loud laughter at seeing him praying.

The court adjourned until Wednesday when it will hear more prosecution witnesses.

If convicted, Corp. Dakamseh could receive the death penalty.

Majali criticises Israeli settlement policy

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday criticised Israel settlements policy saying that "peace cannot be achieved through the construction of settlements but rather through a comprehensive solution to the entire Middle East problem."

Addressing an Arab-Israeli delegation representing the Regional Council in Israel led by Dani Attar, Dr. Majali called on the Israeli people to exert pressure towards the peace objective.

In reply, Mr. Attar said that the Israeli people deeply respect and appreciate His Majesty King Hussein's efforts for peace and his humanitarian stands.

He said that such meetings help to give momentum to the peace process adding "we agree with the Jordanian views and sup-

port King Hussein's efforts for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region."

Also Monday, Dr. Majali visited the Jordanian Investments Corporation (JIC) where he attended a Planning Committee meeting along with Minister of Finance Suleiman Hafez. The corporation's activities and plans, presented by JIC Director General Muhammad Bataineh, were reviewed.

Dr. Majali underlined the importance of the corporation's efforts and stressed that investment projects are needed outside the Greater Amman area.

The Prime Minister urged the corporation to direct special attention towards mining projects which he said can be carried out by the private sector in conjunction with the Natural Resources Authority.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday meets with a visiting delegation of Arab-Israelis (Petra photo)

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* "Stroszek" (with subtitles in English) at Goethe-Institut, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

CONCERT

* Musical performance by Mark Weiger on the oboe and Robert Conway on the piano at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition of Bahraini products entitled "Made in Bahrain" at Philadelphia Hotel, until June 6.
* Works by Guy Ferrer at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until June 15.
* Works by Issam Tantawi at Al Husson Gallery, Irbid (Tel. 02/242680), until June 10.
* Spring Exhibition of Plastic Art '97 at Greater Amman Municipality, Ras Al 'Ain, until June 30.
* One-of-a-kind artists' book exhibit at the American Centre, Abdoun, until June 25.

* Exhibition of works by Farouq Lambaz at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until June 19. Also displaying works by Paris-based Moroccan artist Najia Mahadji, until June 12, as well as showing an exhibition by architectural photographer Said Nuseibah entitled "The Farthest Mosque" and by contemporary Arab artists.

NMC works on 'music use' curriculum for children, adults

By Marci von Savoye
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Any student can describe the wretched feeling of labouring over a textbook for hours just to sit down to take the test and forget everything. It is a common anxiety, but one masters student from Utah is bringing Jordanian students an antidote — music.

The National Music Conservatory (NMC) has provided students opportunities to develop their musical talents since it was established by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in 1985.

The NMC is now working on a landmark curriculum for Jordan which will

teach both children and adults not how to play music, but how to use music.

Anna Dixon, a music therapy masters student at Brigham Young University in Utah will be teaching three classes from the middle of June through July.

"Music has been used therapeutically throughout history."

Only recently are we able to show and document the effects of music on the mind and body," Ms. Dixon said.

Ms. Dixon researched music therapy for two years in the United States with children who had attention deficit disorders. She monitored their

brain wave patterns while listening to a background music stimulus.

"The children that I was working with showed an increase in memory," Ms. Dixon said.

"No one really knows why it happens in the brain. I think it has something to do with the fact that music is very rhythmic. It is amazing that music can enhance those activity levels."

Ms. Dixon designed the first course for educators and musicians. She said she will focus on music therapy techniques for educators to incorporate into their classrooms.

"Some of the techniques are stress management," Ms. Dixon said.

"They're techniques for children going in and taking tests. It's kind of a self-regulation, meditation. They can decrease their heart rate, become very relaxed and it helps them to recall information."

The two other classes are directed for the children. Ms. Dixon will apply the methods she teaches the educators on the children.

The course, she said, will begin with the basics of music and then she will move to pneumonics, or rhythms and symbols which instigate memory recall.

Ms. Dixon said she intends to increase the children's "spatial reason-

ing," which she said is "almost like logic." She explained spatial reasoning was the ability to see a two-dimensional object on paper and then construct a three-dimensional image in your head.

A good sense of spatial reasoning, she said, is important to succeed on most tests.

She said the course is also aimed at increasing children's IQ and improving their memory.

Ammar Jaber, the press officer at the conservatory said, "this is the first time we've had a course in music therapy. I told Anna it's very interesting, because the idea itself is new not only to Jordan, but to the region as well."

Prime minister says government would heed decision of legislature, judiciary on temporary laws

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali has said that the government is prepared to comply with any decision by the legislative or the judicial branches concerning temporary laws, in particular the recently introduced amendments to the Press and Publications Law of 1993.

In an interview with Al Dustour Arabic daily, published Monday, Dr. Majali said "we are a free democratic state governed by the executive, legislative and judicial authorities. If either the legislative or judicial branches decides to repeal the amendments to the Press and Publications Law, we will duly respect the decision."

Journalists, professional associations, civic groups and opposition figures have been outraged over the introduction of amendments to the Press and Publications Law which they said aim at restricting press freedoms during

the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Replying to a question about calls for appointing observers to monitor the fall elections, Dr. Majali said Jordan refuses such an idea. He said "observers are sent to monitor elections in countries facing particular circumstances, but thank God we are an independent country enjoying democratic life and political pluralism. In the case of the legislative council elections in the Palestinian National Authority, observers monitored the voting process because of the existence of [Israeli] occupation, elections were being held for the first time, and the observers were present at the PNA's request in order to guarantee non-interference by any other party."

Turning to the economic climate, the premier was asked if he expected investments from Arab countries in Jordan.

Dr. Majali replied that Jordan has taken steps

to attract investments by enacting relevant laws, and conducting surveys of economic, trade and tourism potentials.

"We are quite confident that the investment climate will attract Arab investors," he stressed.

On the peace process, Dr. Majali said that he was optimistic about the future. "Peace is prevailing in the region, this is the natural situation, and we expect to reap the dividends of peace whose gains benefit all sides."

Commenting on Israel's amassing of nuclear arsenals to "protect itself from Iran," Dr. Majali said, "I do not see any justification for any party to mass nuclear or chemical weapons at a time when the world bade farewell to wars and we believe reason and logic should prevail and should be the language among nations."

Asked about reports that Jordan and Israel were maintaining an early warning alarm sys-

tem for both their air forces, he said, "Jordan is an independent state and submits to no nuclear alarm system does not exist."

On Jordan's relations with Iraq, the prime minister said there was no change in Jordan's position. "Jordan supports the Iraqi people and is in favour of lifting the sanctions. The Iraqis are Arab people and we feel they should not be subjected to continued sufferings which mainly affect women and children. We are in agreement with many Gulf countries which support the Iraqi people and back demands for ending the sanctions."

Referring to the presence of Iraqi opposition groups in Jordan, he said Jordan, like other countries including the United Kingdom, hosts opposition groups from various Arab countries.

He referred to the presence of Hamas move-

ment members in Jordan saying that Musa Abu Marzouk, a Hamas leader, was given permission to reside in Jordan with his family for humanitarian reasons but Jordan does not tolerate any activity on the part of Hamas that would harm the country's national interests or violate its laws.

With reference to Jordanian-Syrian relations the prime minister said, "there is no conflict between the Jordanian and Syrian roles as each complements the other. The road between Amman and Damascus is not covered by frozen ice. The leaderships in Damascus and Amman are in constant contact."

And about relations with Kuwait, Dr. Majali said that "the time has come for brotherly relations to resume between Jordan and Kuwait adding that the Kingdom's ties with all other Gulf states have returned to normal."

French Socialists want Europe without austerity

PARIS (R) — France's Socialist Party, swept to power after a parliamentary election, pledged Monday to make its views heard on Europe and said all stood to gain if a single currency no longer meant austerity.

Party spokesman Francois Hollande said he believed the left and centre-right agreed on what France was seeking out of economic and monetary union.

"I believe that President (Jacques Chirac) is committed, like all French people, to have the best possible negotiation for France and for Europe at the time of the switch to the single currency," he said in a radio interview.

"We all stand to gain if Italy and Spain are in monetary union, if there is a political government alongside the European Central Bank, if Europe no longer means austerity," he said.

The Socialist Party has said it is committed to monetary union, but with conditions, including a flexible interpretation of the Maastricht Treaty.

Mr. Hollande said there was no contradiction between Socialist Party campaign pledges — which include a halt to privatisations, no more tax increases and no more austerity — and its commitment to monetary union.

"You can have the single currency without policies restricting public spending, without privatisations, without raising taxes," he added. The Socialists would, however, make budget savings if necessary, after an audit of public finances due to be carried out in the next two weeks.

"We will make savings everywhere where it is necessary and if we have any effort to make, we will not

ask for it from French people with most modest means," he said.

He reiterated that the Socialists were most worried about any overshooting in France's welfare accounts, which are run separately from the central government budget.

The outgoing government, aiming to reduce the total state deficit to 3.0 per cent of gross domestic product, had insisted that France was on course to meet its deficit targets this year.

Earlier France's Communists, who hold the balance of power in the new parliament, said they would disclose Monday a list of demands, including relaxing Maastricht criteria, made to their Socialist allies in order to take part in a government following the left's election victory.

Pierre Zarka, a member of the Communist Party lead-

ership, said the conditions, drawn from a joint pre-election declaration, also included wage rises and cuts in working hours.

"We have made precise questions and we expect answers," Mr. Zarka told France Inter Radio.

The Communists wanted "to relax the Maastricht grip so that we no longer suffer external constraints and free ourselves from criteria that are absolutely tragic for the population and the economy," he said.

Socialist leader Lionel Jospin, expected to be named prime minister later Monday, said during the campaign his party's line on Europe would prevail in any Socialist-led government.

The Communist Party had called for a new referendum on a single currency.

China warns against new guidelines on U.S.-Japan defence relations

TOKYO (AFP) — Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang used his visit here Monday to warn against moves by Japan and the United States to step up their defence cooperation in the region.

Mr. Shen, who arrived here Sunday on a nine-day visit at the invitation of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, said that the scope of the Japan-U.S. security treaty should be limited to matters directly concerning the two countries.

"If the treaty is applied beyond that," he said, "it would make other Asian nations anxious."

Tokyo and Washington are reviewing 1978 guidelines on their defence cooperation, particularly in dealing with emergencies "in the areas surrounding Ja-

pan" which will have an "important influence" on its security.

Japan's role in such expanded cooperation shall be limited to rear logistical support as Japan's post-World War II constitution bans the use of force in settling international disputes.

An interim report on the review was scheduled to be announced this weekend and a final report in September.

Mr. Shen also hoped for a peaceful settlement to a territorial dispute over a chain of islets claimed by Japan, China and Taiwan.

Japan's coastguard thwarted an attempt last month by boatloads of protesters from Hong Kong and Taiwan to reach the islands, known as the Senkakus to Japanese and the Diaoyus to

Chinese. Mr. Shen said he thinks the two countries could resolve the issue "at an appropriate time through dialogue."

Mr. Shen was one of foreign "opinion leaders" invited by the ministry to visit Japan to promote understanding of Japanese policies.

During his five-day stay in Tokyo, Mr. Shen will exchange views with senior ministry officials and representatives of the Japanese media.

He will also visit the southern Japan island chain of Okinawa, near the disputed islands, and the western city of Kobe, which has been rebuilt after being devastated by a killer earthquake in 1995.

Emperor Hirohito 'responsible' for entry into World War II

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's late Emperor Hirohito was found "responsible" by a top aide for the country's entry into World War II and advised to abdicate once a peace treaty was signed, according to state documents declassified Monday. "Under the Japanese constitution, he was the commander-in-chief. He bore the final responsibility for the war," Koichi Kido, Japan's last lord keeper of privy seal, said in tape-recorded interviews in 1967.

The 16-hour voice recording, coupled with a 355-page shorthand note, had been preserved at the National Diet (parliament) Library for release after 30 years.

But Mr. Kido denied in the interviews the emperor had the final say in leading Japan's militarist government to wage war against the United States in December 1941.

"Conceivably (the emperor) should have forbidden them to go to war, saying 'I don't like war.' But there would have been unpredictable repercussions," he said.

"It could have caused an explosion among those who had more (weapons) than they could manage."

Emperor Hirohito's responsibility for Japan entering the war has been an unsettled question even after the U.S.-led allied powers decided against putting him on trial for a war crime or forcing him to abdicate.

Emperor Hirohito was redefined as the "symbol of the state" with no political power by Japan's 1946 post-war constitution which renounces war and bars Japan from using force in settling international

disputes. He died in 1989 at the age of 82.

In the interviews with several men of letters, Mr. Kido remembered advising Emperor Hirohito not to resign before the signing of a peace treaty when the emperor told him he would like to take all responsibility for the war.

"I told the emperor that his majesty had an important duty to rebuild Japan," Mr. Kido said. Japan signed the San Francisco Peace Treaty in September 1951 with the 48 Allied Forces.

The post of lord keeper was established in 1885 as a separate administrative office not of cabinet rank.

Mr. Kido held the post from 1940, choosing prime ministers for the emperor, who was considered "sacred and inviolable" and held sovereignty until Japan was defeated in 1945.

The National Library recorded testimonies from 10 people who played important military and political roles in Japan's modern history. The recordings were made between 1961 and 1987 on condition that they would not be made public for 30 years.

Mr. Kido was sentenced by the international military tribunal to life imprisonment as a class-A criminal, but he was released in 1955.

Mr. Kido's newly revealed remarks supplement his earlier disclosed diary covering January 1930 to December 1945, as an important historical source for the last days of World War II, experts said.

He died in 1977 at the age of 87.

Australian scientist fails to silence creationist over Noah's Ark

SYDNEY (R) — An Australian scientist Monday failed in a legal bid to silence a creationist in describing his explorations of what some believe is the resting place of Noah's Ark at a site near Mount Ararat in Turkey.

The case, which began on April 7, had at its centre two opposing theories over the earth's and man origins. Creationists believe the world was created over seven days, 6,000 to 10,000 years ago, a view generally dismissed by science which almost universally accepts Darwin's theory of evolution.

Much of the debate has centred around the existence, or not, of Noah's Ark. But despite ruling in Mr.

Roberts' favour, the judge found the creationist did make false representations in describing his explorations of what some believe is the resting place of Noah's Ark at a site near Mount Ararat in Turkey.

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Mr. Roberts, a church elder, described the outcome as a victory for free speech.

"The judgment that was handed down has in fact preserved the free speech of anyone who has something to say publicly," he told reporters outside the court.

"I trust in future they will not be harassed and pursued in courts by someone who disagrees with them on ideological grounds," he said.

In a separate claim, Mr. Roberts was found to have breached copyright by claiming the written work of American marine salvage expert David Fasold on the site in Turkey as his own.

Colombia rebels warn of obstacles to troop handover

BOGOTA (R) — Leftist rebels warned in a communique Sunday that undercover military operations in the southern jungles of Colombia could hamper the release of 60 soldiers they have been holding prisoner for the last nine months.

The three-point statement issued by Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas said, all government troops had been pulled out of a 13,000 kilometre zone of Cauca province as agreed but said some had returned posing as street vendors.

President Ernesto Samper ordered all army units out of the area for 32 days — a process that began 10 days ago — to allow the FARC to hand over 60 soldiers seized in neighbouring Putumayo province on Aug. 30.

"The demilitarisation of the zone has been accomplished. Our units have verified that," FARC commanders said in a communique issued to reporters in Cauca.

"But some of the soldiers that left the zone have returned to (the town of) Cartagena Del Chaira dressed as civilians and posing as street vendors. If the armed forces do not fulfil Mr. Samper's orders to the letter they will be responsible for any delays in the handover of the prisoners," the communique added.

Gen. Agustin Arzola, commander of the army's fourth division who is overseeing the troop pull-out, was unavailable for comment on the FARC claims that undercover troops had filtered back into the area.

The attack on the Las Delicias base, in which the 60 soldiers were captured and at least 27 other killed, marked the start of one of the bloodiest rebel offensives in three decades of guerrilla war and the beginning of Latin America's longest-running hostage crisis — largely overshadowed by the recent rebel siege of the Japanese embassy residence in Lima.

Under the terms of the demilitarisation deal the army was allowed five days to retreat and the FARC was given a further five days to check the withdrawal was complete.

FARC negotiators are due to meet with government representatives and international observers Monday and Tuesday to finalise details for the release of the soldiers, together with another 10 Marines captured in fighting in northwest Choco province in January.



Hong Kong democrats to test China on handover

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong's Democracy Movement said Monday it would stage a protest march on July 1, hours after China recovers sovereignty from Britain, to test Beijing's pledge that free expression will survive the handover.

At the same time, Hong Kong's chief civil servant, Anson Chan, who is to stay in her job after the flag is changed, vowed to work for civil liberties and human rights and declared "you cannot put the clock back" on democratic values.

"We are going to hold a march for democracy on July 1 so we can express that aspiration for a more democratic China just after the handover when we are under Chinese sovereignty," said Lee Cheuk-Yan, a leader of the pro-democracy Hong Kong Alliance.

Mr. Lee said he would notify police and discuss the marching routes. "As we have always done, we will cooperate and try to make sure it can be an orderly event," he told Hong Kong Radio.

"If the authorities are sincere about letting people continue with their activities after July 1, then they should allow this sort of thing to go on."

Mr. Lee also said the movement would stage what it hoped would be Hong Kong's biggest rally this Wednesday to commemorate those killed in Beijing's June 4, 1989, Tiananmen Square crackdown.

"We hope this year there will be more people coming out to show their support. It will be a very powerful message to the future government, that the people of Hong Kong do support these kind of activities."

The protest rally has drawn tens of thousands of people to the streets every year since one million Hong Kong residents protested against the Beijing crackdown eight years ago.

These protests irk Beijing's Communist chiefs as they gear up to take back the 156-year-old British colony on July 1. China has promised it considerable autonomy and the survival of its social and economic system and basic freedoms.

More than 3,500 protesters marched to China's mission in Hong Kong Sunday calling for a vindication of the 1989 Democracy Movement and the release of all political prisoners.

Ms. Chan, who is staying to serve future Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-Hwa, made clear she too believed in basic freedoms.

"I will continue to speak out," Ms. Chan told Newsweek international in an interview published in New York Sunday.

Ms. Chan said she supported "Asian values" such as order and obedience, but that these would not be enough to run Hong Kong.

"We've been used to freedoms and human rights, and we value these things, too," Ms. Chan said.

"We cannot pretend that Hong Kong is like China. Hong Kong is not like any other province in China. We've progressed at a very different pace. You cannot put the clock back."

Ms. Chan said she believed Hong Kong

was not yet ready for "a full-fledged, Western-style democracy," and that the best way to move forward was by following the basic law, the constitution China established for the territory after July 1.

Mr. Tung has prepared a raft of measures for the sovereignty change, making protest rights hinge on whether "national security" is threatened and banning foreign donations to political groups. The laws are to be passed by a new legislature promoted by Beijing to replace the elected Legislative Council.

Maria Tam, a key figure in the post-handover leadership, Monday denied the changes in civil liberties were designed to prevent future Tiananmen commemorative rallies.

"There is no law whatsoever preventing anybody having memorial activities vis-a-vis June 4," she said. Ms. Tam said the law did not "actually pinpoint any particular group or subject matter."

"As long as your activities do not affect public safety, public order and national security, it's no problem whatsoever," she said.

Meanwhile, a Royal Navy warship, bristling with weaponry, took up position on the Hong Kong waterfront Monday to serve as a floating nerve centre for Britain's end-of-empire retreat in just 29 days time.

Dodging flimsy sampans and commuter ferries chugging about the famously crowded harbour, the multi-role frigate HMS Chatham berthed beneath glassy skyscrapers alongside the Prince of Wales Barracks in the heart of the metropolis.

There it will tick away the hours, assuming the role of command centre for the British military withdrawal, until China takes back Hong Kong at the stroke of midnight on June 30.

After the historic handover, the Chatham will escort the departing royal yacht Britannia, with Prince Charles and colonial Governor Chris Patten on board, out of Hong Kong.

Braving one of the hottest and steamiest days so far this summer, Captain Christopher Clayton said he and his crew looked forward to performing an historic task with pride.

"There is no sense of withdrawal," Capt. Clayton said.

"This is very much one professional armed forces handing over the protection and sovereignty of Hong Kong to another, the People's Liberation Army (PLA). So I look on it as a classic military evolution and one which we hope to do with some style, order and professionally."

The arrival of the type 22 frigate coincided with a 21-gun salute by the Navy's HMS Plover patrol ship on the anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's coronation, which the Chatham honoured by "dressing overall" in a busy selection of flags and signals.

With just 29 days to go, the frigate's arrival was the latest piece in the jigsaw puzzle of preparations for Britain's withdrawal from the pearl of its colonial possessions.

Rome revokes nomination of new Albania envoy

TIRANA (R) — The Italian government revoked the nomination of a new ambassador to Albania Sunday, casting confusion on its leading role in European efforts to check its turbulent eastern neighbour's slide into anarchy.

The announcement was made in Rome just before Prime Minister Romano Prodi, who has sent Italian troops to head of a multinational force in Albania, flew in for talks with President Sali Berisha and Prime Minister Bashkim Fino about the elections promised for June 29.

Mr. Fino, opposition leader until an anti-Berisha revolt plunged the formerly Stalinist nation into turmoil and forced the formation of an all-party government, met Mr. Prodi at the airport

but both refused to answer reporters' questions.

Also on hand was Italian ambassador Paolo Foresti, who is due to be replaced and has been accused by the Albanian opposition newspaper Independent of pro-Berisha bias.

Mr. Foresti, denies it and says a purported telephone transcript published by Independent was a fake. But it was controversy over his role that got his nominated successor, Manfredino Incisa Di Camerana, into hot water in Rome.

Mr. Incisa, a former ambassador to Mozambique, was quoted in the La Repubblica newspaper Sunday as saying that Mr. Foresti had always been politically-aligned and the Italian foreign ministry was going through a period of weak-

ness.

He told the same newspaper Sunday that his comments had been off the record and were distorted, but offered to stand down.

Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini quickly accepted, saying Mr. Incisa was "not up to the job", calling his comments "disconcerting" and promising another replacement for Mr. Foresti would be chosen quickly.

Mr. Foresti, who was due to be replaced last December after completing his tour of duty, has stayed on because of the crisis in which many thousands of Albanians were ruined by the post-Communist explosion of pyramid investment schemes and blamed Mr. Berisha's government for their losses.

The transcript published

AIDS vaccine shows promise in chimps

WASHINGTON (R) — Chimpanzees inoculated with an experimental AIDS vaccine have successfully fought off repeated exposures to the AIDS virus up to a year after they were vaccinated, an American research team has reported, according to Monday's Washington Post.

The novel vaccine, which consists of a series of nasal sprays followed weeks later by a booster shot in the arm, is the latest addition to a small but growing arsenal of experimental AIDS vaccines showing early signs of promise after many years of mostly disappointing results, the paper reported.

Scientists have cautioned that other vaccines have looked similarly effective in chimpanzees only to fail in human clinical trials.

But researchers said they were encouraged by the strength of the immune response triggered by this vaccine, and especially impressed with its ability to confer protection so long after vaccination, the Post said.

Study leader Marjorie Robert-Guroff of the National Cancer Institute reported in the June issue of Nature Medicine, released Sunday, that unvaccinated chimps became infected with the deadly virus within a month, but vaccinated chimps remained healthy and apparently uninfected until the study ended, almost a year later.

The new vaccine was made from an adenovirus — a kind of virus that can cause colds in people — that was genetically engineered to contain an extra gene called GP160, normally found only in HIV, the paper said. The chimps' immune systems responded to the HIV proteins by making antibodies and white blood cells programmed to attack HIV.

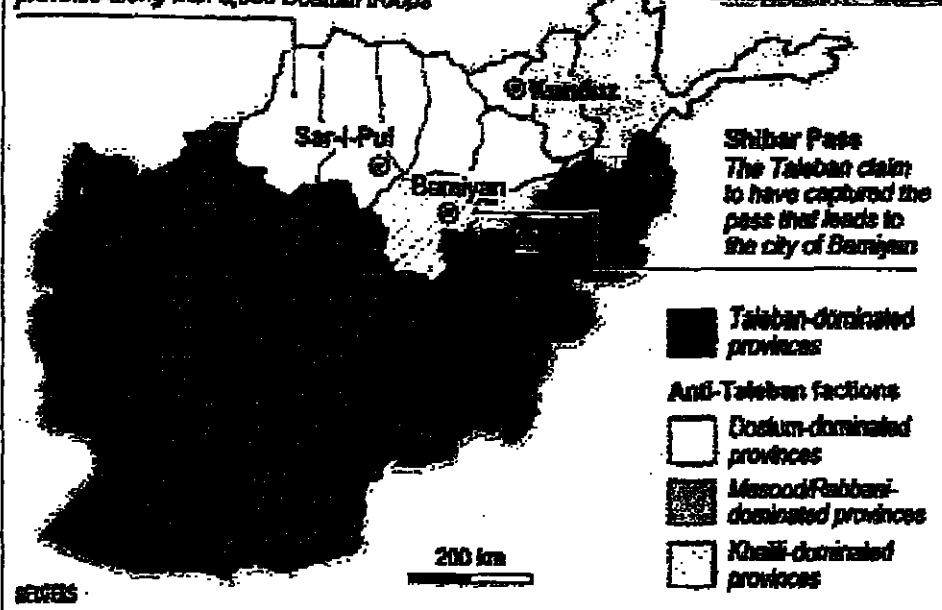
The company that helped develop the vaccine — Wyeth-Ayerst Research of Radnor, Penn. — has, however, been questioning the cost-effectiveness of ushering its vaccine through the expensive and time-consuming labyrinth of clinical trials and regulatory approval, the Post said.

Given the results and President Bill Clinton's challenge last month to find an AIDS vaccine within 10 years, there was hope the company would reconsider financing the necessary work that could lead to early safety tests in human volunteers.

"There is no doubt that a good per cent of the pharmaceutical industry ... have become in recent years less interested in financing developments of an AIDS vaccine," the paper quoted Robert C. Gallo of the Institute of Human Virology in Baltimore. "It's possible ... that these and other recent promising findings will renew their interest."

Control of Afghanistan

Faryab province
General Malik claims to have captured the province along with 5,000 Dostum troops



Taliban seek talks with Malik

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan's Taliban said Sunday it was seeking talks with ethnic Uzbek leader Abdul Malik, who handed the purist Islamic movement an easy victory in the north last week only to have his followers snatch it away.

Taliban considers its pact with General Malik still valid and is holding back from serious attacks on Mazar-i-Sharif, the main city of the north, while it tries to make contact, said a statement distributed in neighbouring Pakistan.

Mr. Malik has not been heard from since the dramatic reversal of Taliban's brief conquest.

The Taliban governor of the southern city of Kandahar, Mullah Mohammad Akhund, told reporters Saturday that Malik had taken no part in his followers' revolt against the Taliban.

Taliban sources say they suspect that Malik, if alive, is held prisoner by other Uzbek commanders.

The militia's statement, issued in Kandahar and reported by the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press, also reminded Uzbek commanders that Taliban leaders captured in Mazar-i-Sharif had been invited there for talks and should not be harmed.

The captives include Foreign Minister Mullah Mohammad Ghous and military chief for the north Mullah Abdul Razzak.

The whirlwind sequence of events in the north began when Mr. Malik quarrelled with northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum, who was Afghanistan's most powerful anti-Taliban leader.

Mr. Malik's forces drove Gen. Dostum into exile and brought Mazar-i-Sharif under temporary Taliban control last week, but his Uzbek troops and Shiite Muslim militiamen jointly drove Taliban fighters from the city Wednesday.

Taliban said it had so far conducted only limited air and ground attacks against the opposition in Mazar-i-Sharif, but added that a full-scale military operation might be launched if talks failed.

On Friday, an Uzbek commander named General Humayun Fauzi warned that any ground or air attack on Mazar-i-Sharif could have "dangerous" consequences for the Taliban prisoners.

The Taliban have been rushing reinforcements to their front lines, after being thrown back onto the defensive by their defeat in Mazar-i-Sharif and Friday's capture of the key town of Jhal-Os-Siraj by opposition guerrilla chief Ahmad Shah Massoud.

Taliban officials and witnesses said the militia had flown 8,000 recruits from Kandahar to Kabul in military transport planes Saturday and another 1,800 Sunday. Most of the new fighters were Taliban students from Muslim religious schools in Afghanistan and neighbouring Pakistan, who were responding to an appeal for jihad (holy war) made by the Taliban's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar.

Sri Lanka troops pound rebels

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas and government forces launched artillery barrages in northern Sri Lanka as troops consolidated in areas taken from the rebels, the Defence Ministry said Monday.

Troops confronted small groups of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas who infiltrated military defence lines, the ministry said without giving details.

"Terrorists also continue to fire mortars at troops and troops carry out retaliatory artillery and mortar attacks neutralising the enemy fire," a ministry statement said.

Security forces captured the former rebel towns of Omanthai and Nedunkerni during the latest military operation which started on May 13 and involves two divisions, or some 20,000 soldiers.

However, the military advance further into Tiger territory was hampered by intense resistance, official sources said adding, however, that the army was now poised to start a fresh onslaught.

Operation Jaya Sikuru, or "sure of victory," is aimed at opening a 75 kilometre road through Tiger areas to link the northern peninsula of Jaffna with the rest of the country.

Troops have already moved less than 10 kilometres from their original defence lines to wrest control over Omanthai and Nedunkerni.

"Sri Lanka's army, stalled just north of Omanthai, is continuing to hammer distant Tamil towns with long-range artillery," said a statement, issued by the LTTE's international office in London.

It said a 22-year-old woman died in an artillery barrage while several of her neighbours were wounded. Heavy shelling had forced civilians to leave their homes and take shelter in the jungle, the statement said.

A military spokesman in Colombo denied the LTTE's charges, saying troops engaged only identified enemy targets.

The defence ministry said it was the LTTE that fired at troops, who are fortifying their gains in areas captured

Paper details slaughter of Rwandan refugees during Kabila's rebellion

BOSTON (AP) — Rebel troops marching across Congo during a swift eight-month takeover hunted down and slaughtered hundreds of refugees, burying them in mass graves, the Boston Sunday Globe reported.

The newspaper detailed mass killings in the towns of Wendje and Mbandaka, saying body parts remained in swamps and streams where thousands of refugees tried to flee troops led by then-rebel leader Laurent Kabila. Mr. Kabila has since declared himself president of the country, which was formerly known as Zaire.

The Associated Press on May 22 reported evidence of a similar massacre in Kisangani, in north-central Congo. A map volunteered by one of Mr. Kabila's soldiers led an AP photographer to a burial ground, where the soldier said between 200 and 600 refugees were buried.

Officials from Mr. Kabila's government denied the growing evidence that rebels, most of whom are Tutsis, slaughtered scores of Hutu refugees who had fled neighbouring Rwanda to escape reprisal killings by Tutsis there.

On May 23, Mwenzu Kongo, Congo's justice minister, denied accusations made by human rights groups, including Medecins Sans Frontieres, that the rebels were killing refugees.

"These relief groups tell such big lies," he said. "And if they keep telling these lies, we will expel them."

The Globe said the first refugees arrived in the dilapidated port of Mbandaka on the Congo River in early May. Soon there were thousands, walking nearly 1,600 kilometres from the Rwandan border as they fled rebels who soon toppled the regime of Mobutu Sese Seko and took control.

On May 13, the Globe said, hundreds of unarmed men, women and children were clubbed, bayoneted or shot to death by Mr. Kabila's forces, according to European missionaries.

Local Red Cross workers and villagers who either witnessed the slaughter or helped bury the victims.

Most of the bodies were dumped into the river, but at least 140 victims were buried in mass graves near Wendje, a crossroads settlement about 20 kilometres south of Mbandaka, the Globe said.

Human ribs jutted from a stagnant bog, while a corpse floated face down in a stream, the newspaper reported. The body of a little girl lay curled beside the

bamboo thicket, her face covered with a tattered piece of blanket.

Mr. Kabila's government has prevented Western relief workers and United Nations officials from inspecting sites where massacres are believed to have taken place.

"The situation is ominous and becoming more ominous," Kris Janowski, a spokesman for the Geneva-based U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, told the Globe. "We have no access to huge areas of Zaire. We are very, very alarmed."

But the celebrations are also expected to be overshadowed by the military coup in Sierra Leone which overthrew civilian President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah last month.

The coup has been condemned in the strongest terms by the African ministers who met for three days ahead of the summit.

Mr. Kabbah will be represented at the meeting by Sierra Leone ambassador to the United Nations, James Jonah.

Delegates to the summit are also expected to discuss the conflicts in Angola, Burundi, Liberia, Somalia, and the situation of the Palestinians, whose President Yasser Arafat is a guest here.

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Ghassan I. Saadi.
Amman.

Tutankhamun's killer revealed

By Jason Bennetto

IN WHAT must be the longest running "whodunit" of all time, new evidence has emerged into the mysterious death, 3,000 years ago, of King Tutankhamun.

The combined skills of a former Scotland Yard detective and a medical expert suggest that the boy pharaoh may have been

murdered by one of his top officials or a general. Ever since Tutankhamun, who died at the age of nine in 1352 BC, was discovered buried in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt in 1922, there has been intense speculation about his demise.

Now the magazine *MAG* — Museums and Galleries — has brought

together a "historic murder squad" to investigate the case. Their findings, published recently, suggest that foul play ended the young king's life.

Analysis of X-rays of Tutankhamun's skull by Professor Ian Isherwood, a retired neuroradiologist with 33 years experience, revealed a small depressed fracture in the back of the skull. Professor Isherwood believes the injury was probably caused by a blow to the head which most likely took place before his death.

"During mummification you often get (this sort of injury) in limbs but not in the skull," he has said. He added: "It doesn't imply mal-intent, unless there's circumstantial evidence to support it."

So the question is whether there was anyone with a motive.

In steps Graham Melvin, a former detective inspector with the Metropolitan police. His prime suspects are Ay, the king's vizier, and the head of the army, General Horemheb. "You would need two. If Ay was acting alone, wouldn't Horemheb have been angry with him for murdering his king? Anyway, Ay would have needed the army's support."

Further circumstantial evidence is that Ay took over Tutankhamun's throne and married the dead king's widow. Following Ay's death Horemheb took power and destroyed the young Pharaoh's monuments. The name of Tutankhamun was removed from the list of



Gold mask of Tutankhamun

king. Mr. Melvin said: "It wasn't about power per se. If it had been about power, why wait. They'd have bumped him off long ago.

"It was about the greater glory of the country. Ay was old. They agreed, on a handshake, that he'd take over, and Horemheb knew when Ay was dead, he

could do as he liked."

Despite this new inquiry and fresh list of suspects, no charges are expected.

The Independent



King celebrates Independence Day

(Continued from page 1)

He said the creation of the Balqa Applied University in Salt was a major achievement in a city which boasts factories, farms, schools and institutions.

"This ceremony which is in observance of the country's independence anniversary reminds us that the Kingdom is linked to the Great Arab Revolt and its army is that of the Great Arab Revolt noting that Jordan has succeeded in dealing with all dangers and challenges and in protecting national unity," said the King.

"We take pride in our national stand under all circumstances and no one can outbid us in anyway," the King stressed.

Referring to Palestine, the King said: "Palestine and Jerusalem are in our hearts and conscience and we will continue to support our brothers with all our might until they regain their rights on their national soil."

"All Jordanians are duty-

bound to contribute to the shaping of a better future for the country, noting that it is natural to see people building and others casting doubts on our achievements, but with God's help, we will continue our march towards construction on solid bases in an atmosphere of democracy and freedom," said the King.

At the outset of the ceremony, the King unveiled a plaque commemorating the construction of the premises, toured its sections and later he received the governor's shield from Governor Mohammad Saeed Tarazi.

The new premises were built on a five-dunam plot of land and cost nearly one million dinars. After the inauguration ceremony, King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan attended a lunch hosted by the governor at Zay district.

Also attending were Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh and other dignitaries.

Later Monday, King Hussein inaugurated the new premises of the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf which consists of six floors built at the cost of JD500,000 donated by international organisations.

Bishop Samir Qafeti of Jerusalem and the Middle East delivered a speech welcoming the King and outlining the institute's activities and services for the local community.

Institute Director Andrew de Carpentier presented to the King with an outline of the institute's activities since its establishment in 1964, noting that it had cared for one thousand handicapped children with hearing difficulties.

He said that the institute offers vocational training and education to 150 handicapped students at the present from the kindergarten level up to the 12th grade.

Later, King Hussein met students and donated the sum of JD10,000 for the benefit of the institute and its projects.

Crown Prince and Hansen mark...

(Continued from page 1)

meeting is a sign of their belief in the role of UNRWA.

In response to a question on the Social Productivity Package (SPP), the Crown Prince said "the social productivity package aims at improving the living conditions of all less fortunate sectors of society."

"Clearly, part of it is to provide financial support to those who need it. But it also aims at improving health conditions, education and the environment. We have said on numerous occasions that the SPP is not focused on refugee camps," he said.

The Crown Prince emphasised that there are 29 sites in the badia, rural areas and the cities where the SPP will be implemented. Refugee camps are part of these sites, "Palestinian refugee camps do constitute suburbs of our towns. You cannot talk about environmental impact without talking about the whole environment. Infrastructure must be built for all Jordanians," he said.

Meanwhile, UNRWA's Commissioner General Peter Hansen warned that the 50-year-old agency is on the verge of bankruptcy adding that lack of funds

will push the agency to adopt austerity measures that would affect the life of more than 3.3 million refugees.

"UNRWA is technically bankrupt. That is not to say that we are to close tomorrow or at the end of the year, it means that our liabilities are larger than our assets," Mr. Hansen said to reporters following the inauguration ceremony.

"UNRWA is facing financial difficulties, there is no doubt about that, and I cannot stress the seriousness of it enough, on the other hand I feel very confident that as donors become aware of these difficulties, they are going to live up to their responsibility," the commissioner said, referring to the donors' meeting that will represent more than 30 countries.

"We don't intend to make cuts (in the annual budget). We have to be prepared for all eventualities but we hope that donors will side with us," Mr. Hansen said.

"When we have had difficulties, and this is not the first year we have had difficulties, we have responded by taking austerity measures, so called, that means cutting in necessary expenditure," he said.

"I am not the one who

speculates on that. I expect the donor community will take their responsibility in pointing out what they are no longer ready to do and when they come to think very hard about them. I hope that they will come to our rescue again," he said.

Mr. Hansen said UNRWA has gone far in austerity measures adding that "part of our deficit is what we need to re-install some of the things we have cut in the past that should not have been cut and again if we have to go beyond that, it will have to be by actual cuts in programmes...as we do when we have to double shift in schools," he said.

Mr. Hansen said that among the options the agency has to ensure effective performance is to levy fees from Palestinian refugees, hinting that this issue might be discussed on the June 10 meeting.

"Well there have been discussions for many years in many parts of the world about how social policy is designed in terms of fees and co-payments and so on. I think that at the moment we should not exclude anything. It is not that we want to do it but if that is what it takes to keep our programmes going at the rate and level they are..." Mr. Hansen said.

Chirac asks rival to form next government

(Continued from page 1)

he will impose conditions on French entry to EMU, arguing for a softening of the strict convergence criteria and will place priority on tackling France's record 12.8 per cent unemployment rate, ahead of the introduction of the euro.

On Monday Socialist Party spokesman Francois Hollande said it was possible to launch EMU without a new "austerity plan." Mr. Hollande said: "We can launch the single currency without restricting public spending, without privatisation, without increasing taxes and this is our goal."

The French press largely agreed Monday that Mr. Chirac

had got what he deserved. Many criticised the president for having called the early elections in the first place, when they were not necessary.

"The most stupid rightwing in the world has just ensured its place in the nation's memory for the worst arranged political operation and one of the worst election campaigns ever seen," said the left-of-centre Liberation.

The conservative Le Figaro, a staunch supporter of Mr. Chirac throughout the campaign, admitted Sunday's result was a disaster.

And it hinted that Mr. Chirac, who in theory could dissolve parliament again in 12 months' time, may be forced to take

more drastic measures even earlier — possibly by resigning himself.

The extent of the defeat brought recriminations from right-wing politicians and calls for restructuring of the Gaullist Rally for the Republic (RPR) and its centre-right ally Union for French Democracy (UDF).

Former premier Edouard Balladur, who lost the presidential elections to Mr. Chirac two years ago, criticised the president for breaking his election promises.

Mr. Balladur set himself the task of "a mission of renewal" and reconstruction of the RPR, saying "we must be coherent and not say one thing and do the opposite."

father remained the night in detention.

The Israeli government on Monday vowed to protect land dealers who it said are in danger amid a crackdown by the PNA.

The authority, while denying any involvement in the killings, has arrested at least 12 in a campaign against those who sell land to settlers.

Israel wants to protect...

(Continued from page 1)

direct attack on the peace process," Mr. Netanyahu added, but he stopped short of making a halt to the killings a condition for resuming peace negotiations frozen since mid-March.

The Israeli action came after a third Palestinian suspected of selling Arab property in the Jerusalem area to Jews was found murdered Saturday in the Palestinian-ruled West Bank town of Ramallah.

Israeli police also said they had foiled the kidnapping and possible murder of a fourth land dealer Saturday and arrested six Palestinian security agents in connection with the case.

Four other Palestinians, three of them security offi-

cials, are being held by Israel for the first murder of a land dealer from Arab east Jerusalem on May 8.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported Monday that Israeli intelligence officials had obtained a list of 16 Arab property dealers condemned to death by the PNA for selling land to Jews, including the three men murdered last month in Ramallah.

Prior to those killings, the PNA declared that Palestinians who sell land to Jews are guilty of treason because they help the spread of Jewish settlements and undermine hopes for the creation of a future Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Arab east Jerusalem.

The PNA has denied any role in the recent slayings, but Mr. Abu Midein was

unapologetic for the fate of the land dealers.

"We consider this as internal business for the Palestinians and we cannot accept interference from Mr. Netanyahu and his government," he said Monday on Israel Radio.

"Land dealers hand over the land to settlers and for us one settler is more dangerous than 50 residents of Tel Aviv because he is against peace," he said.

"Even when Germany invaded France (during World War II), the Germans were not allowed to purchase property in Paris," he said.

Mr. Abu Midein said the PNA "applies the law, and believes that land dealers must be brought to justice."

Randa Habib's corner

Docile dolls do the trick

A FRIEND of mine came up with this great idea which, he said, "will make the best business in three decades".

He has created human-size dolls, male and female, blondes and brunettes, flexible, skin colour, a perfect replica.

The dolls are activated by voice sound which makes them move their head in an approval gesture while they utter a single word: "yes."

"They are perfect, they never contest anything you say or do" said my friend.

I am sure you are wondering what is so great about that, as the majority of people (real human beings) do just the same. That was also my initial reaction.

Who would be interested to buy such dolls? I asked my friend.

Thousands of people, believe me. Soon you will see them in every car in Amman.

Why in cars? I asked completely lost.

You know how fond of cellular phones Jordanians are...

Yes, I replied failing to see the connection.

And they love to use their phones while driving.

Yes, I nodded starting to feel like one of his dolls.

You also know that international traffic regulations forbid drivers to use their phones while roaming in their cars.

Yes.

That is why drivers are linking their cellular phones to the speakers of their car, in order to talk hand-free, while driving.

For heaven's sake, what does this have to do with your dolls? I asked with irritation.

Don't you see, he said. Drivers talking while driving, without a phone in their hands, will look crazy. So, I will provide them with one of my dolls who will nod at the sound of their voice, and this will appear to passers-by as a conversation between two persons. And they can also function to fill other seats or positions.

By the way, did I tell you what portfolio my friend carries?

Egypt counterattacks pyramid theorists' campaign

By Mona Salem
Agence France-Presse

Cairo — Egypt is waging war to protect the pyramids and the Sphinx from an "organised campaign" by Israel and foreign amateur archaeologists, officials here say.

"Israeli allegations that they built the pyramids around and we must face up to this even if it triggers a (diplomatic) crisis" with Israel, Egyptian Culture Minister Farouq Hosni told the weekly Rose Al Youssef.

"This is piracy. Our history and our civilisation must be respected but the Israelis want to take over everything," he said.

"We must not ignore these allegations and keep silent. We must counterattack with full strength because this is how they took Palestine. They kept on saying Palestine belongs to them and they are doing the same with the pyramids."

"Sooner or later someone is bound to believe them," Mr. Hosni has said.

The custodian of the pyramids and the Sphinx, Zahi Hawass, has told a news conference that these allegations are part of an "organised campaign" against the symbol of Egyptian civilisation.

"A group of people are making an organised campaign. There are some people pushing them," Mr. Hawass said, referring to Israel.

"They pretend that I have found evidence concerning Atlantis and that I am hiding this evidence from them," the director of the Giza pyramids told the Foreign Press Association in Cairo.

Some theories suggest that the Giza and pre-Colombian American pyramids were built by residents of the lost continent of Atlantis, which according to legend, existed from 10,000 to 12,000 B.C. between Europe and America.

"There are people waging a big attack against us," Mr. Hawass said.

"I swore two years ago I would not reveal their names, but I found out that

I must mention them because it is becoming a threat," he said.

Mr. Hawass identified them as Robert Bauval, an architect from Belgium; Graham Hancock, a British journalist; John Anthony West, a U.S. tourist guide; and Richard Hoagland "who speaks of the existence of pyramids on Mars."

"What they spread on the internet has begun to convince those who do not know the truth," Mr. Hawass said.

Bauval has written two books, one of them in cooperation with Hancock, outlining theories that the ancient Egyptians were not responsible for building the pyramids.

"They needed a victim to sell their books and they found their victim: it was me," he said.

"They pretended that I was carrying out secret work around the pyramids and that I had found evidence linking them to Atlantis which I was hiding," Mr. Hawass said.

"What they got to say will make you laugh. I even did but then I had to stop because things were becoming dangerous," Mr. Hawass said.

According to Mr. Hawass, his detractors convinced people across the world to sign petitions urging the Egyptian authorities to allow them to carry out excavation work at the Giza plateau.

"John West arranged to get an authorisation to dig around the Sphinx about five years ago. But one day I found him knocking on the Sphinx. That's when I stopped him and told him to leave," Mr. Hawass said.

The Egyptian official, who described West and the others as amateurs, stressed that under Egyptian law only professionals from reputable institutes are authorised to take part in archaeological missions.

Meanwhile the head of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, Ali Hassan, recently said that the council will soon open a site on the Internet to set the record straight.



Bahraini Minister Ali Saleh Al Saleh (centre) explains a point to Amman Chamber of Industry President Khaldoun Abu Hassan, Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hani Mulki and Tourism Minister Aqel Beltagi (far right) (Petra photo)

Bahraini exhibition offers chance to advance industrial and trade ties with Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday expressed Jordan's keenness on promoting and strengthening Jordanian-Bahraini relations and voiced readiness to launch joint investment projects with Bahraini entrepreneurs.

Speaking at a meeting with visiting Bahraini Trade Minister Ali Saleh Al Saleh and Bahrain Chamber of Industry and Trade President Ali Ben Youssef Fakhro, Dr. Majali stressed the need for Bahrain and Jordan to intensify efforts for increasing trade and economic cooperation.

Referring to the Bahrain industrial exhibition which opened in Amman Monday, Dr. Majali said that it is hoped that the exhibition would serve as a catalyst for promoting economic and trade ties and stressed that the Bahraini and Jordanian markets complement each other.

Mr. Saleh said that Bahrain's choice of Jordan as a venue for the exhibition reflects the brotherly links between the two countries adding that Jordan enjoys a favourable investment climate which promises better trading and economic links.

The meeting was attended by Industry and Trade Minister Hani Mulki, Jordan's ambassador to Bahrain, Shaker Arabiyat, and Bahrain's ambassador to Jordan, Mohammad Seif Al Musallam.

Dr. Majali earlier Monday delegated Dr. Mulki to formally open the Bahraini exhibition, which is held at the Philadelphia Hotel, in the presence of the Bahraini minister and other officials.

The June 2-6 exhibition, the first of its kind in Jordan, displays products by 50 Bahraini industrial firms including, among other things, aluminium, petrochemicals, textiles, garments, foodstuffs, mechanical equipment, furniture, plastic products, electrical and home appliances, honey, tobacco, medical equipment, paper, paint, traditional handicrafts and jewellery.

Touring the different parts of the exhibition, Dr. Mulki said he was impressed by the high quality of the products noting that Bahrain has been exporting semi-finished products to Jordan for further processing of manufacturing and re-export.

He said Bahrain produces car tyres, which are sold in Germany and Italy and which can be a first step for the assembly of motor vehicles in the Gulf state.

Noting that Jordan will organise an industrial exhibition in Bahrain in the coming months, he said officials in the two countries will discuss linking Jordanian and Bahraini industries.

Mr. Saleh said that the exhibition aims at orienting the Jordanian public on Bahraini goods and

expressed hope that the volume of trade between Bahrain and Jordan, which now stands at \$37 million annually, will be increased for the benefit of the two peoples.

According to Mr. Fakhro, Bahrain plans to announce 26 projects which Jordan and Bahrain can jointly carry out. He said that the announcement will take place at a seminar to be held at the Amman Chamber of Industry Tuesday.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Fakhro said that 17 of these projects are initiated by his chamber and deal with industrial, tourism and services projects.

Following the opening of the exhibition, it was announced that the Jordanian Shadi firm, which produces aluminium home appliances, has signed an agreement with the Bahraini Branco Group for the establishment of a joint industrial complex at the Sahab Industrial City for joint production of aluminium appliances.

According to the announcement, arrangements will be made for the joint venture to commence manufacturing products worth JD 600,000 annually within six months from now.

According to the announcement, the products will be exported to the self-rule areas of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Jordan.

Israel Radio: Sharon negotiating purchase of Gulf oil via Jordan

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel is secretly negotiating with a Gulf state for the purchase and transshipment of oil, Israel Radio reported Monday.

Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon is leading the negotiations for Israel via Jordanian intermediaries and with the involvement of a major U.S. oil company, the radio said.

The negotiations focus on a deal under which Israel would take in Gulf oil at Eilat on the Red Sea and pipe it to the Mediterranean port of Ashkelon for domestic distribution and possible reexport via tanker ship.

Use of the Eilat-Ashkelon pipeline for transshipment of the oil would be far less costly than the current practice of shipping the petroleum from the Gulf to the Mediterranean via the Suez Canal.

The name of the Gulf state was not given. In 1995 Israel signed a memorandum of understanding with Qatar for the purchase of natural gas, but the deal was never concretised.

Qatar and Oman began timidly normalising relations with Israel following the 1993 and 1995 Oslo peace accords between the Jewish state and the Palestinians. But they froze the process earlier this year in protest at the hardline policies of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mr. Sharon considered a leading hawk in Mr. Netanyahu's government, visited Jordan for the first time last month to help resolve a dispute over water sharing arrangements called for under the two countries' 1994 peace treaty.

Resolution of the water dispute opened the door to negotiations on other infrastructure cooperation between Israel and Jordan, including joint air and rail facilities, officials said.

Israel currently obtains most of its oil from Egypt and on European spot markets.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

| Major Currencies & Cross Rates | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| Prices as at 2/06/97 17:17 | | | | | | | | | |
| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY | CA\$ | HK\$ | NLS\$ | FRF |
| US Dollar | 1.7280 | 0.6137 | 1.4325 | 116.52 | 1.3744 | 1702.80 | 1.8440 | 5.8313 | |
| DE Mark | 0.5787 | 1.0000 | 0.3545 | 0.8287 | 67.39 | 0.7949 | 0.8422 | 1.1246 | 3.3716 |
| GB Sterling | 1.6295 | 2.8184 | 1.0000 | 2.3350 | 169.89 | 2.2396 | 2.7750 | 3.1706 | 9.5062 |
| CH Franc | 0.8981 | 120.54 | 0.4276 | 1.0000 | 81.32 | 0.9595 | 1187.45 | 135.86 | 4.0677 |
| JP Yen | 0.0088 | 1.4827 | 0.5257 | 1.2288 | 1.0000 | 1.1797 | 14.69 | 166.82 | 5.0027 |
| CA Dollar | 0.7276 | 1.2327 | 0.4447 | 1.0282 | 1.18 | 1.0000 | 1214.82 | 1.3662 | 4.1603 |
| IT Lira | 0.0000 | 1.0162 | 0.3603 | 0.9842 | 1461.56 | 0.8083 | | 11.43 | 3.4285 |
| NL Guilder | 0.5142 | 88.88 | 0.3152 | 73.67 | 59.87 | 0.7070 | 874.52 | | 2.9988 |
| FR Franc | 0.1715 | 0.2963 | 0.1061 | 24.5607 | 19.85 | 0.2357 | 33.33 | 33.3300 | |

| Middle Eastern Currencies | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|
| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY | CA\$ | HK\$ | NLS\$ | FRF |
| US Dollar | 1.4124 | 0.7060 | 3.7500 | 3.6398 | 0.3024 | 3.6729 | 1537.00 | 3.3917 | |
| Jordan Dinar | 0.2667 | 0.1858 | 0.5266 | 0.5325 | 5.1410 | 0.4271 | 5.1877 | 2170.90 | 4.7905 |
| GB Sterling | 2.65 | 1.9780 | 8.8472 | 8.65 | 0.8021 | 9.74 | 4077.03 | 8.9968 | |
| Bahrain Dinar | 0.2747 | 0.1945 | 1.0303 | 1.0303 | 0.0831 | 1.01 | 422.28 | 0.9318 | |
| Qatar Dinar | 3.3089 | 2.3413 | 12.4008 | 12.467 | 12.04 | | 12.15 | 5082.67 | 0.9318 |
| Kuwait Dinar | 0.2723 | 0.1928 | 1.0210 | 1.026 | 0.9910 | 0.0823 | | 418.47 | 0.9234 |
| Emirates Dinar | 0.65 | 0.4806 | 2.4388 | 2.4355 | 2.3681 | 0.1967 | 2.3687 | | 2.2057 |
| Lebanese/1000 | 0.2948 | 0.2087 | 1.1056 | 0.1112 | 1.0731 | 0.0892 | 1.0828 | 453.17 | |
| Egyptian | | | | | | | | | |

| Energy | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|--------|--------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-------|-----|
| Oil | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY | CA\$ | HK\$ | NLS\$ | FRF |
| Brent | 19.85 | 19.85 | | | | | | | |
| W. Tera | 19.25 | 20.35 | | | | | | | |
| Bonny | 19.85 | 19.85 | | | | | | | |
| Dubai | 19.20 | 19.10 | | | | | | | |
| UL Gas | 205.00 | 205.00 | | | | | | | |

| Metal Prices | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-------|-----|
| Commodity | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY | CA\$ | HK\$ | NLS\$ | FRF |
| Gold (oz's) | 343.4 | 343.9 | | | | | | | |
| Silver (oz's) | 4.72 | 4.74 | | | | | | | |
| Platinum (oz's) | 397 | 401 | | | | | | | |
| AL (3 Months) | 1997 | 1999 | | | | | | | |
| CU (3 Months) | 2488 | 2488 | | | | | | | |
| Zinc (3 Months) | 1324 | 1327 | | | | | | | |
| Lead (3 Months) | 622 | 624 | | | | | | | |
| Ni (3 Months) | 8950 | 8970 | | | | | | | |

| Main Equity Indices | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------|----------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|-----|
| Index | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY | CA\$ | HK\$ | NLS\$ | FRF |
| New York | 7295.41 | 35.63 | -0.49 | 7354.22 | 7294.99 | 7331.04 | | | |
| New York | S&P 500 | 846.39 | -1.89 | -0.22 | 851.34 | 846.39 | 848.28 | | |
| London | FT-SE 100 | 4592.7 | -28.6 | -0.62 | 4645.7 | 4592.7 | 4621.3 | | |
| Tokyo | NIKKEI 225 | 20451.85 | 383.04 | 1.91 | 20451.9 | 20040.7 | 20068.8 | | |
| Paris | CAC 40 | 2823.47 | 39.73 | 1.54 | 2845.86 | 2498.75 | 2583.94 | | |
| Frankfurt | DAX | 3608.82 | 57.78 | 1.83 | 3608.81 | 3588.1 | 3547.84 | | |

| Energy | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-------|-----|
| Commodity | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY | CA\$ | HK\$ | NLS\$ | FRF |
| Coffee (c/lbs) | 280.83 | Spot | | | | | | | |
| Cocoa (\$/ton) | 1467 | Spot | | | | | | | |
| Sugar (\$/ton) | 331.7 | Spot | | | | | | | |
| Wheat (\$/ton) | 132 | Spot | | | | | | | |
| Soya (c/lbs) | 23.53 | Spot | | | | | | | |
| Tea (c/lbs) | 155 | Spot | | | | | | | |
| Barley (\$/bsh) | 0 | Spot | | | | | | | |
| Rice (\$/ton) | 480 | Spot | | | | | | | |

| JOD Cross Rates | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|--------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-------|-----|
| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY | CA\$ | HK\$ | NLS\$ | FRF |
| US Dollar | 0.708 | 0.710 | | | | | | | |
| GB Sterling | 1.1585 | 1.1643 | | | | | | | |
| DE Mark | 0.4127 | 0.4148 | | | | | | | |
| CH Franc | 0.4991 | 0.5006 | | | | | | | |
| FR Franc | 0.1219 | 0.1225 | | | | | | | |
| JP Yen | 0.8083 | 0.8115 | | | | | | | |
| NL Guilder | 0.3868 | 0.3886 | | | | | | | |
| IT Lira | 0.4151 | 0.4172 | | | | | | | |

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- African river
- Actor Baldwin
- Chews the fat
- Paris farewell
- VIP transport
- Beige shade
- Succeed, in some sports
- Slim or reedy
- Storm center
- Hyde or Central
- Tickled responses
- Theater role
- Light ring
- Take off pounds
- Systematic plans
- Fill with joy
- Stage Auntie
- Buffalo's lake
- First name in jeans
- Makes macaroons
- Mr. Rogers
- Monogram part: abbr.
- Arabian gulf
- Time in a bottle singer
- Reddish wine grapes
- Kitchen tool
- Playmate
- Type of china
- Mules' cousins
- Method: abbr.
- Heel's opposite
- Butter substitute
- Succeed as an archer
- A few individuals
- Low-down joint
- Promotion plus, perhaps
- Good buddies
- Hill builders
- Individual endeavors

by Diane C. Baldwin

- Run faster than
- Wide-awake
- Beat up
- New Zealand bird
- Vacation homes
- Succeed in a board game
- Twinge or pang
- Soft cheese
- Tries for a tan
- Long-eared mammal
- Yale man
- Succeed in communicating something
- Macho fellows
- Old memento
- Verdugo
- Ship's crane
- Leaf gatherers
- Swashbuckler
- Flynn
- Female relative
- Passover meal

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34 Woman's title

37 Head scarf

41 Work hubs

43 Query word

44 Elegant

46 Computer units

47 Comic book

Betty

48 Arm bone

49 Fly rod

50 Proofing term

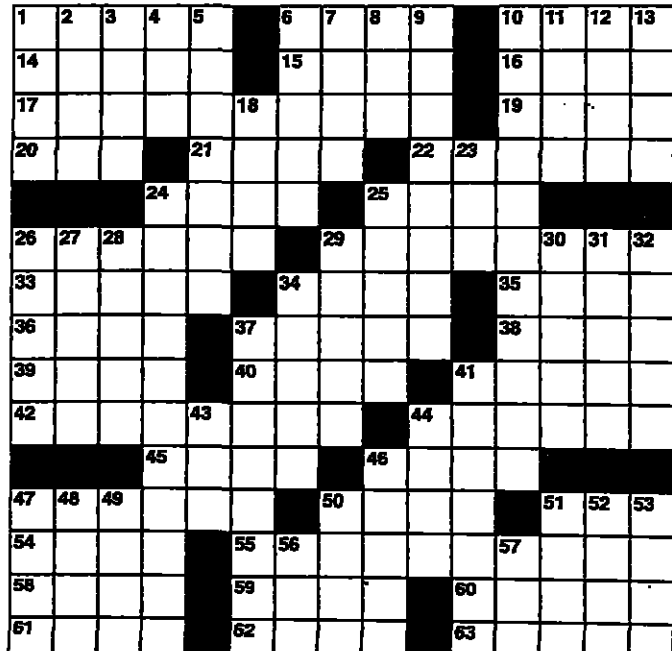
51 Follow closely

52 About

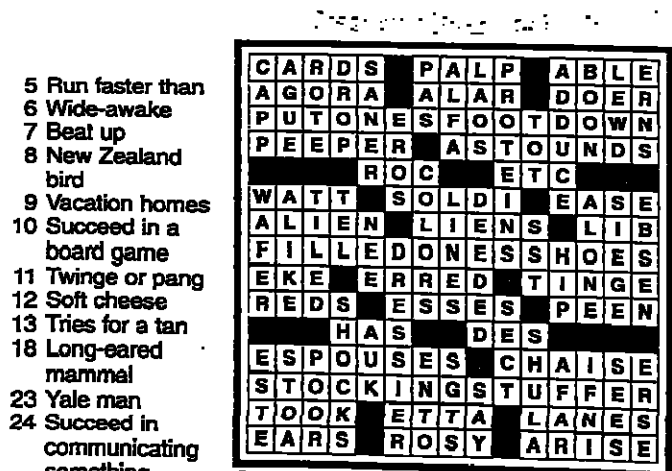
53 — out (barely manages)

58 Wayfarer's stop

57 Name in China



by Diane C. Baldwin



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52 About

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58 Wayfarer's stop

57 Name in China

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Try to use the creative side of your nature today to further your business interests. Try to be more kind and understanding to your mate thereby he or she will be appreciative of all the attention which you are giving.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have some excellent ideas today on how to make improvements to your home, so get busy on them. Enjoy the company of your loved ones later this evening and you can spend some quality time with them.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your ability to communicate your ideas to others will be unusually good today, so use it. This will be a bring, however, satisfying day for you and fellow associates to get much accomplished with a new project.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You will find you have some spare time today, so use it to catch up on all those little chores you have been putting off until later. Later this evening is a good time to discuss career activities with fellow associates.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get in touch with some old friends today, and make plans to get together for an evening on the town. Have a cheerful and friendly reunion with them and you will enjoy the opportunity to get reacquainted.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Set aside some time today to talk with your mate and come to a better understanding. Be calm and tactful with this person or there could be a misunderstanding which could develop into greater difficulties.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A good friend has some ideas today which can make both of you more financially secure, however, you must labour together in order to do this. Later this evening will be a good time for you to seek out knowledgeable people.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can get the support you need from a superior today for a financial venture you have in mind. Take care of personal matters later this evening which you have put aside and which must be handled.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A new contact can give you some information today which will help you progress more quickly, so listen carefully to the ideas which a knowledgeable person has to offer on your behalf for the days ahead.

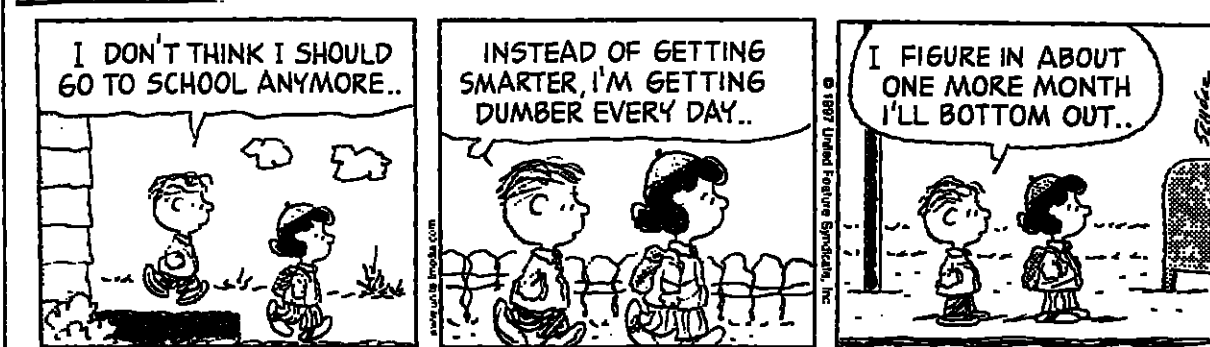
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Talk over an important idea today with a person who is very fond of you, and come to a fine agreement. Be sure to drive carefully while on the highway later this evening and thereby eliminate any difficulties.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get your career activities finished early today, then go out on the town for some fun with your mate and thereby you can both enjoy yourselves. Stick to simple pleasures, and don't spend a lot or you won't have any funds for emergencies.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be more cooperative with others today, and you can be more efficient and financially secure. Be sure to drive carefully while on the highway later this evening and thereby you won't get into a difficult situation.

Birthstone of June: Pearl — Moon Stone

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff

Analyst stresses importance of GDR Foreign investments pour on Jordan

By Ghaila Alul
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Out of JD20 million of foreign institutional investments at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) this year, JD15 million were invested last month, according to an economic analyst.

The analyst indicated that foreign institutional investments at the AFM reached only JD9.5 in 1996, compared to JD8.5 in 1995 and JD5 in 1994.

"We are very proud of the Arab and foreign investors' confidence. The past month is considered to be one of the most important months in the history of AFM," stressed AFM Director General Wahib Shair.

Mr. Shair told the Jordan Times Monday that the demand to invest in

Jordan rose sharply following the amendments introduced to the investment law.

"The demand for shares was very poor before the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit (held in Amman in October 1995). However, AFM witnessed an increased demand after the investment law was amended," Mr. Shair added.

While realising the positive impact of the increased demand, Ziad Al Basha, securities manager at the British Bank warned that the sustainability of this demand could not be assured if Jordan does not move towards a Global Depository Receipt (GDR), a programme which lists Jordanian companies' shares in international markets.

"Jordan is the only MENA country that does not have international listing... This demand might turn against us if we don't move fast," stressed Mr. Basha, who is also a senior equity market expert.

Mr. Basha said Jordan's strong macro economic indicator, stable national currency as well as the high profitability of some of the listed companies, all were factors that attracted more foreign equity investments.

He added that the Union Bank of Switzer-

land (UBS) has recently identified eight Jordanian companies as potential for foreign investments, a fact which also prompted an increased foreign demand in the Kingdom.

The eight companies, in which the government holds large stakes include the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, the Arab Potash Company, the Jordan Cement Factories Company, the Dar Al Dawa' Development and Investment Company, the Housing Bank, the Jordan National Bank, the Jordan Electricity Company and the Jordan Telecommunications Company.

"The timing of the UBS road show ticked off for-

ign demand," he pointed out.

However, Mr. Basha called for the creation of a privatisation programme eliminating a 50 per cent non-Jordanian ownership ceiling imposed on listed companies.

Mr. Basha affirmed that foreign investors viewed the government's decision to enact both the companies law and the securities law as a serious intention towards opening up the economy.

But Mr. Basha added that "Jordanian companies and the government should move fast. Otherwise we will lose momentum."

Arabs to invest \$55b in oil projects

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states are expected to spend nearly \$55 billion on oil projects in five years to expand capacity and boost their share of the market, an oil expert has said.

Nicolas Sarkis, head of the Paris-based Arab Oil Institute, said the investments between 1996 and 2000 would increase the combined production capacity of regional oil producers by around 3.5 million barrels per day (bpd).

"Arab states are planning to invest nearly \$55 billion during 1996-2000 to raise capacity by 3.5 million bpd to 24.7 million bpd," Mr. Sarkis wrote in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) economic weekly Emirates Today.

Gas investments, mostly in liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects, are set to reach \$27 billion in the same period, he said.

Mr. Sarkis estimated the combined Arab oil production at 18.6 million bpd in 1996, accounting for only 21.4 per cent of the total global crude supplies.

Arab gas production of 188 billion cubic metres constituted 8.1 per cent of the world's gas output.

"The ratio of Arab oil and gas production to the world's production is low as Arab countries own nearly 61.8 per cent of the world's total crude reserves and 21.8 per cent of the gas reserves," he said.

He attributed the low level to weak oil prices which he said were hampering energy development projects as well as international sanctions against Iraq and Libya, among the biggest oil producers in the region.

Mr. Sarkis, one of the most prominent Arab oil experts, said regional producers could be prompted to readmit foreign partners they kicked out some decades ago to secure technology and funds for ventures to boost capacity.

"Another option for Gulf oil producers is to abandon their quotas set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and return to a price war similar to that in 1985 in response to the production increases from outside OPEC and quota violations by some members, especially Venezuela," he said.

Dubai says goods must be labelled in Arabic

DUBAI (R) — Exporters of packaged food to Dubai will have to use Arabic language labels from July or risk a ban on their products in one of the Gulf's busiest markets, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Gulf News daily has said.

"Anyone interested in this market should respect its requirements and adjust himself with its laws," Abdul Rahman Al Mutaiwee, director general of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry was quoted as saying.

"Foodstuffs retailers with small export volumes to the UAE who cannot abide by these regulations can find other markets to export their products," he said.

Regulations on Arabic language labels were announced in 1983, but implementation had been delayed to allow time for importers and manufacturers to comply.

Gulf News quoted traders in Dubai as saying that between 40 and 50 per cent of the products currently on the market could disappear under the new measure.

They said small and medium-size U.S. and European manufacturers and exporters would be the main sectors affected by the regulations.

"European food products' share had already dropped and many countries from different parts of the world are interested in exporting to the UAE at even more competitive rates," Mr. Al Mutaiwee said.

"European and American companies should know they are serving 200 million consumers of which some know English and some do not," he said with reference to the size of the Arab world's consumer market.

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Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Stiff competition, higher paid claims cuts Al Nisr Al Arabi net profit

** THE BOARD of directors of the Al Nisr Al Arabi Insurance Company was authorised by the general assembly to take the executive measures to raise the company's capital to JD2 million by capitalising the retained earnings and the voluntary reserves at the time the board sees it appropriate.

The company recorded a 12 per cent rise in total premiums earned in 1996 as it amounted to JD4.63 million compared to JD4.14 million in 1995. However, the net profit was sharply down as it totalled JD379,200 from JD603,000 total posted in 1995.

The large decline was attributed by the company to the stiff competition in prices and the rise in paid claims that affected the life insurance department which contributed JD189,030 to the net profit of the company in 1996.

The department insuring transport risks provided JD39,000 to the net profit while the vehicles, fire and general accidents departments pumped JD77,600, JD57,070 and JD15,600 respectively to the total net profit.

Paid claims increased by 40 per cent as they totalled JD2.67 million in 1996 compared to JD1.91 million at the end of 1995. The paid claims related to the life insurance department accounted for 71 per cent, or JD1.90 million, of the total. The share of health insurance from the amount mentioned was JD1.11 million or 59 per cent of the life insurance paid claims.

The amount of paid claims related to vehicles insurance stood at JD0.59 million at the end of last year, 70 per cent or JD444,000 higher than the total paid in 1995. The share of third party insurance amounted to JD401,000.

Other income that flowed to the earnings of Al Nisr Al Arabi was JD586,000 which represented returns on investments. These returns were JD472,000, more than the amount of JD114,000 earned in 1995.

At the end of 1996 the company's financial statement showed the following:-

— Total technical reserves of JD3.87 million which is more than triple the JD1.1 million capital.

— An increase of 5.9 per cent in gross profit from JD0.53 million in 1995 to JD0.58 million in 1996.

— Total assets of JD7.83 million, four per cent higher than the 1995 total.

— Total shareholders equity of JD2.27 million, a 21 per cent increase over the JD1.87 million at the end of 1995.

Board Chairman Mohammad Jardaneh told the general assembly that with the increase in the number of insurance companies to 26, competition is tight and limited market is no longer on quality but on premium charges.

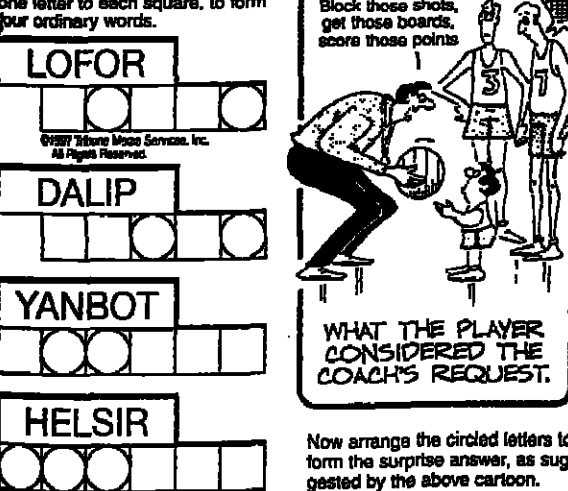
THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"Your cat will respond to this pager. It sounds like an electric can opener."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: A

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's Jumble: VOCAL PHOTO HAZARD CANNED

Answer: What a cold head can lead to — A HEAD COLD

| <div><div><div><div><div><div></div></div></div><div><div><div></div></div></div><div><div><div></div></div></div></div></div><div>AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET</div><div>HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI</div><div>TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179</div><div>ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 02/06/1997</div><div>المسوق المنظمة لسعر حصة السوق لالاثنين 02/06/1997</div></div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|--------|-------|---|
| PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH | COMPANY'S NAME | P / E | DIV. | NO. OF TRANS. | NO. OF SHARES | VALUE TRADED JD | OPEN PRICE | CLOSE PRICE | CHANGE | | |
| 269.000 | 213.000 | ARAB BANK | 11.8 | 1.56 | 9 | 320 | 81810 | 255.00 | 256.00 | 1.00 | + |
| 2.270 | 1.680 | JOR. NATIONAL BK. | 8 | 0.00 | 248 | 436573 | 1002914 | 2.27 | 2.26 | -0.01 | - |
| 3.600 | 2.760 | BANK OF JORDAN | 6.6 | 0.00 | 5 | 6600 | 20820 | 3.15 | 3.15 | - | - |
| 1.210 | .880 | MID-EAST INV. BK. | 64.4 | 0.00 | 4 | 800 | 790 | 3.98 | .98 | - | - |
| 2.480 | 2.120 | INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK. | 8.5 | 7.35 | 9 | 3350 | 7738 | 2.32 | 2.30 | -0.02 | - |
| 5.200 | 4.250 | THE HOUSING BK. | 15.2 | 3.83 | 10 | 1441 | 7308 | 5.19 | 5.07 | -0.12 | - |
| 2.950 | 2.440 | JOR. KUNAWAT BANK | 9.7 | 0.00 | 6 | 2261 | 6197 | 2.75 | 2.74 | -0.01 | - |
| 1.050 | .780 | JOR. GULF BANK | 4.8 | 8.64 | 8 | 14050 | 11419 | 5.82 | .81 | -0.01 | - |
| 3.870 | 3.450 | ARAB JOR. INV. BK. | 17.3 | 0.00 | 1 | 500 | 1800 | 3.60 | 3.60 | - | - |
| 2.000 | 1.180 | UNION BK. SAV. INV. | P | 0.00 | 3 | 850 | 986 | 1.18 | 1.16 | -0.02 | - |
| 3.800 | 3.000 | JOR. INV. FIN. BANK | 20.7 | 0.00 | 6 | 2301 | 7278 | 3.23 | 3.22 | -0.01 | - |
| 2.850 | 1.000 | BEIT AL-HAL (BEITNA) | 8 | 11.19 | 13 | 5050 | 6724 | 1.37 | 1.34 | -0.03 | - |
| 1.440 | 1.000 | PELLEADEL INV. BK. | 9 | 0.00 | 1 | 250 | 275 | 1.13 | 1.10 | -0.03 | - |
| BANK SECTOR TOTALS | | INDEX: 197.42 | CHNG: 0.00 | 323 | 474446 | 1156057 | | | | | |
| 2.400 | 1.600 | JOR. FRENCH INSUR. | 4.8 | 11.70 | 3 | 300 | 511 | 1.72 | 1.71 | -0.01 | - |
| 2.680 | 1.850 | YARMOUK INSUR. | 9.8 | 8.11 | 1 | 1000 | 1850 | 1.85 | 1.85 | - | - |
| INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS | | INDEX: 115.29 | CHNG: -0.05 | 4 | 1300 | 2361 | | | | | |
| 1.820 | 1.450 | JOR. ELECTRIC PWR. | 8.4 | 5.78 | 34 | 28229 | 49124 | 1.79 | 1.73 | -0.06 | - |
| 1.540 | 1.280 | IRBID ELECTRICITY | 8.2 | 8.39 | 4 | 2500 | 3460 | 1.41 | 1.37 | -0.04 | - |
| 2.650 | 2.090 | SHIPPING LINES | 14.4 | 5.24 | 4 | 750 | 1850 | 2.42 | 2.48 | 0.06 | + |
| 1.420 | .930 | NATL. PORTFOLIO | 9 | 0.00 | 59 | 86350 | 89796 | 1.38 | 1.36 | -0.02 | - |
| 7.570 | 5.600 | AD-DUSTOUR | 21.6 | 3.98 | 1 | 100 | 532 | 5.60 | 5.32 | -0.28 | - |
| 3.720 | 2.900 | ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC. | 7.8 | 0.00 | 1 | 100 | 300 | 3.00 | 3.00 | - | - |
| 1.220 | .960 | ZAKA EDUCATION | 9 | 0.00 | 9 | 13824 | 13788 | .98 | 1.00 | 0.02 | + |
| 2.230 | 1.630 | UNIFIED CO. | 8.2 | 6.40 | 14 | 3650 | 6368 | 1.77 | 1.72 | -0.05 | - |
| 1.050 | .650 | UNION LAND DEV. | 9 | 0.00 | 3 | 1000 | 675 | .71 | .67 | -0.04 | - |
| SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS | | INDEX: 112.97 | CHNG: -0.54 | 129 | 116503 | 165872 | | | | | |
| 4.450 | 3.060 | JOR. CEMENT FACT. | 28.2 | 2.63 | 122 | 348357 | 1465660 | 4.41 | 4.19 | -0.22 | - |
| 4.140 | 2.710 | JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES | 11.1 | 2.50 | 17 | 68600 | 274320 | 4.08 | 4.00 | -0.08 | - |
| 7.050 | 4.950 | ARAB POTASH CO. | 16.3 | 2.86 | 10 | 36800 | 257600 | 7.05 | 7.00 | -0.05 | - |
| 10.400 | 8.720 | JOR. PETROL. REFINERY | 9.7 | 8.87 | 32 | 3990 | 39990 | 10.01 | 10.02 | 0.01 | + |
| 7.300 | 6.000 | JORDAN TANNING | 7.4 | 5.00 | 2 | 75 | 480 | 6.00 | 6.00 | - | - |
| 1.470 | 1.050 | WOOLEN INDUSTRIES | 11.3 | 7.69 | 4 | 1150 | 1514 | 1.29 | 1.20 | -0.09 | - |
| 3.260 | 1.650 | INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGR. | 9 | 0.00 | 7 | 1650 | 3234 | 2.00 | 1.96 | -0.04 | - |
| 7.200 | 6.420 | JOR. WORSTED MILLS | 10.6 | 3.03 | 2 | 200 | 1320 | 6.65 | 6.60 | -0.05 | - |
| 4.000 | 3.040 | ARAB PHARM. MANF. | 10.8 | 5.09 | 70 | 42500 | 168330 | 3.97 | 3.93 | -0.04 | - |
| 2.070 | 1.390 | JOR. PIPES MANFCT. | 17.5 | 5.67 | 1 | 600 | 846 | 1.40 | 1.41 | 0.01 | + |
| 1.700 | 1.130 | RAPIA INDUSTRIES | 9 | 0.00 | 1 | 750 | 900 | 1.20 | 1.20 | - | - |
| 5.950 | 4.250 | DAR ALNUBA. DEV. INV. | 13.1 | 4.67 | 18 | 10522 | 57536 | 5.50 | 5.35 | -0.15 | - |
| 4.610 | 3.060 | ARAB ALUM. IND. | 7.3 | 8.04 | 5 | 950 | 2950 | 3.16 | 3.11 | -0.05 | - |
| .960 | .450 | LIVESTOCK & POULTRY | 10.8 | 0.00 | 26 | 29700 | 15147 | .51 | .51 | - | - |
| 1.310 | 1.020 | ARAB PAPER CORP. TRD. | 33.0 | 0.00 | 20 | 23400 | 28058 | 1.08 | 1.08 | - | - |
| .840 | .520 | NATIONAL CABLE | 9 | 0.00 | 7 | 7800 | 4230 | .55 | .55 | 0.01 | + |
| 3.730 | 2.130 | NATL. CABLE WIRE. HFAC | 46.5 | 0.00 | 1 | 1000 | 2900 | 3.00 | 2.90 | -0.10 | - |
| 1.070 | .570 | JOR. SULPHUR-CHRM. | 9 | 0.00 | 1 | 500 | 320 | .66 | .64 | -0.02 | - |
| 1.670 | 1.120 | ARAB PHARM. CHRM. | 18.6 | 4.79 | 32 | 9500 | 14126 | 1.52 | 1.46 | -0.06 | - |
| INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS | | INDEX: 132.67 | CHNG: -1.85 | 538 | 681812 | 2442850 | | | | | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | INDEX: 163.00 | CHNG: -0.82 | 994 | 1274061 | 3767140 | | | | | |
| PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 02/06/1997 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| .740 | .410 | JOR. TRADE FAC. | 13.3 | 0.00 | 14 | 18180 | 9075 | .51 | .50 | -0.01 | - |
| 1.580 | 1.050 | ZARA FOR INVESTMENT | 51.2 | 0.00 | 1 | 100 | 125 | 1.19 | 1.25 | 0.06 | + |
| .840 | .660 | UNION INV. 50% | 9 | 0.00 | 40 | 132500 | 26515 | .70 | .69 | -0.01 | - |
| .790 | .790 | ARAB INTL. INV. 75% | 9 | 0.00 | 48 | 131500 | 71272 | .53 | .54 | 0.01 | + |
| .950 | .730 | AL-SHARQ INV. 75% | 9 | 0.00 | 8 | 11667 | 6394 | .78 | .80 | 0.02 | + |
| .950 | .610 | AL-DAMRIYAH 75% | 67.2 | 0.00 | 16 | 18281 | 8185 | .70 | .70 | - | - |
| .420 | .200 | JOR. INDUS. MATCH-JEMCO | 9 | 0.00 | 15 | 15100 | 3665 | .24 | .25 | 0.01 | + |
| .730 | .510 | ARAB FOOD & ISO. | 2 | 0.00 | 2 | 2000 | 1120 | .66 | .66 | - | - |
| .630 | .430 | ARAB INTL. INV. TRD. | 51.8 | 0.00 | 5 | 1600 | 720 | .45 | .45 | - | - |
| .720 | .490 | NATL. TEXTILE | 9 | 0.00 | 8 | 7400 | 3566 | .49 | .48 | -0.01 | - |
| .760 | .400 | NATL. WOL. IND. HAMICO | 9 | 0.00 | 43 | 92350 | 53104 | .58 | .57 | -0.01 | - |
| .640 | .430 | NATL. DIES & MOLDERS | 9 | 0.00 | 3 | 4000 | 8850 | .51 | .51 | - | - |
| .950 | .710 | JORDAN STEEL | 33.5 | 6.76 | 26 | 28670 | 21230 | .73 | .74 | 0.01 | + |
| .580 | .430 | ARAB ELECT. IND. | 9 | 0.00 | 2 | 2500 | 1300 | .51 | .51 | - | - |
| .760 | .550 | RAPI PHARM. 85% | 9 | 0.00 | 17 | 19000 | 8850 | .61 | .60 | -0.01 | - |
| .390 | .260 | ENG. ZAKA | 26.0 | 0.00 | 3 | 1250 | 528 | .22 | .23 | 0.01 | + |
| .920 | .760 | IND. CERAMIC | 21.8 | 0.00 | 13 | 16300 | 13421 | .80 | .83 | 0.03 | + |
| .820 | .590 | NATL. POULTRY | 8 | 0.00 | 3 | 1200 | 840 | .71 | .70 | -0.01 | - |
| 1.800 | 1.310 | BEIT AL-HAL 75% | 16 | 0.00 | 2 | 10216 | 6254 | .88 | .86 | -0.02 | - |
| 1.020 | .720 | ARAB INTL. FOOD FACT. | 35.7 | 0.00 | 2 | 666 | .72 | .71 | -0.01 | - | |
| .870 | .530 | MID-EAST COMPLEX | 8.5 | 14.49 | 34 | 32500 | 22425 | .68 | .69 | 0.01 | + |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | | 317 | 457934 | 2610734 | | | | |

Bulls edge Jazz 84-82 on Jordan buzzer-beater

CHICAGO (R) — The Utah Jazz gave the Chicago Bulls the slightest of openings and the defending champions leaped right through when Michael Jordan's jumper at the buzzer produced an 84-82 victory in the NBA finals opener Sunday.

Utah star forward Karl Malone, who normally thrives at the free throw line, glanced two foul shots off the rim with nine seconds to go and the score tied 82-82.

Jordan got the rebound of the second miss and the Bulls called time out. Scottie Pippen inbounded to Toni Kukoc, who got the ball to Jordan and the nine-time scoring champion drained the shot from just inside the 3-point line.

"We're fortunate that we had the opportunity to win the game, and we took advantage of it," said Chicago coach Phil Jackson.

Jordan brandished a clinched fist to the Chicago crowd, who answered by chanting "MVP, MVP" — referring to the Most Valuable Player award won by Malone over Jordan in a close vote this year.

Jordan led all scorers with 31 points and Pippen added 27. The duo outscored the rest of their team 58-26.

"Down the stretch it was nip and tuck, it could have gone either way," said Jordan. "Whoever made the best plays at the end was going to win."

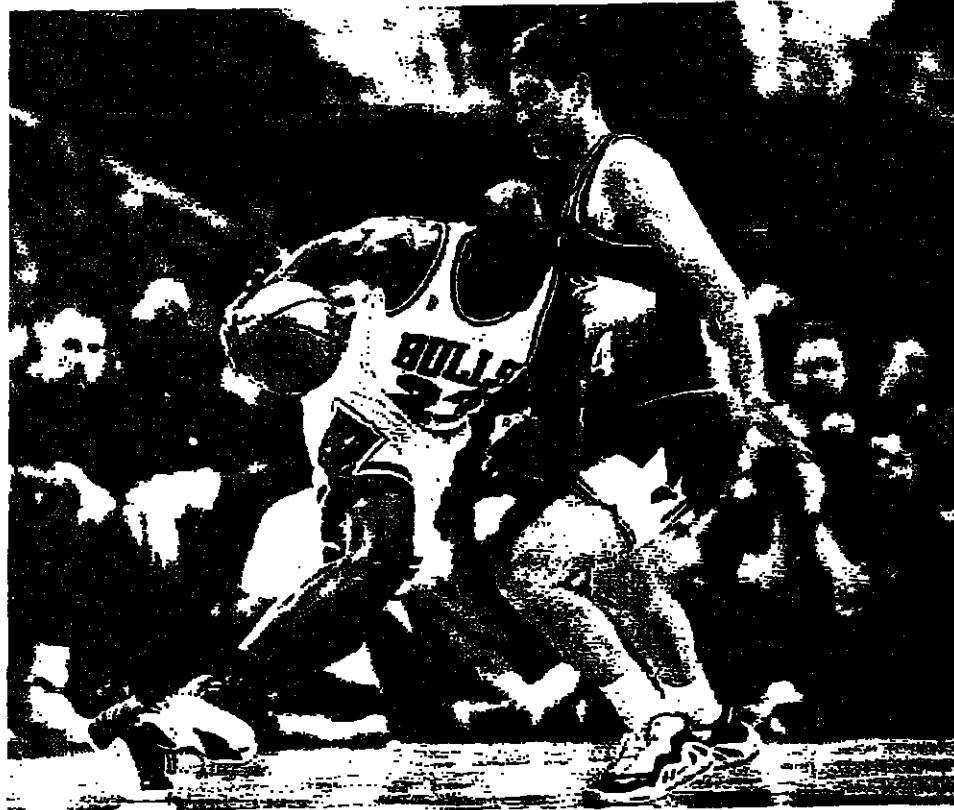
For the Jazz, who led most of the way in a tense, close game, Malone was high scorer with 23 points followed by John Stockton with 16. Malone also had 15 rebounds as "Utha" out rebounded the Bulls 43-36.

The game saw 23 lead changes and 10 ties, with Utah's biggest lead seven points, in the second quarter, and the bulls' largest margin just three, in the first quarter.

Still it was two big free-throw misses by Malone that opened the door for the Bulls. Before his muffs from the charity stripe, Pippen said something to Malone, his one-time Olympic teammate popularly known as the mailman.

"I told him the mailman doesn't deliver on Sundays," Pippen related after the game.

"I don't have any excuses,"



Chicago Bulls guard Michael Jordan (L) drives around Utah Jazz guard Jeff Hornacek in the first quarter of the NBA finals at the United Center in Chicago. The Bulls went on to win 84-82 with Jordan scoring the game-winning points right on the buzzer (Reuters photo)

I'm not going to use any," said Malone, who reopened a cut on his hand during the game.

Game 2 is also in Chicago, on Wednesday, before the best-of-seven series switches to Salt Lake City for Games 3, 4 and, if necessary, 5.

"Our most important thing is, don't let our heads down, we did a lot of good things," said Malone. "We didn't win the game down the stretch and those guys did, and that's why they're the champions."

He added: "I will say this, they were big free throws, but it shouldn't have come down to that."

Jeff Hornacek, third high scorer for the Jazz with 11 points, said Malone's free throws almost went in. "Both free throws were right there, a half-inch here or there makes the difference," the Utah guard said.

And Hornacek also said it should not have come down to two free throws. He pointed to the Jazz's uncharacteristic turnovers — 18 in all, 10 in the first half, to Chicago's total of 14.

"Against a great team you can't have that many turnovers," said Hornacek, who guarded Jordan most of the way but asked his coach, Jerry Sloan, if he wanted to put Bryon Russell or Shandon Anderson, both better defenders, on Jordan for the final play.

Sloan did, putting Russell on Jordan. "He didn't let him drive, he just hit a 20-footer," said Hornacek of Russell's job on Jordan.

Jordan said it was a play the team had run many times, to clear the left side for him. He got the ball, determined to use the entire time left on the clock. Then he checked for the double

team, saw he was alone with Russell and made his move against the Utah swingman.

"He went for the steal, lunged forward, which I thought was my opportunity. It was, and he converted the shot as time expired."

After the game, Jordan praised Pippen's contribution.

"He gave us a courageous effort," Jordan said.

Pippen, whose presence was in doubt after injuring his foot in the clinching game of the Eastern Conference finals, was the first Bulls starter introduced at the start, drawing a cheer from the crowd. He played well but his coach felt he could not run the court as well as he normally would.

"I think Scottie will be better the next time pushing the ball. The rest of his game was superb," said Jackson.

Pippen wound up playing a team-high 43 minutes. Before the game, in a makeshift ceremony echoing ones at last year's Atlanta Olympics, former heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali, his head and body shaking from Parkinson's Syndrome, carried in the ball, holding it in both hands as he slowly walked to centre court.

Linescore for opener of NBA finals

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Utah | 18 | 24 | 22 | 18 | 82 |
| Chicago | 17 | 21 | 24 | 22 | 84 |

High scorers:
Utah — Karl Malone 23, John Stockton 16, Jeff Hornacek 11
Chicago — Michael Jordan 31, Scottie Pippen 27, Toni Kukoc 6

Trio of former Red Sox lift Yanks to 15-inning victory

BOSTON (R) — Three former Boston players came back to haunt the Red Sox Sunday as the trio helped the New York Yankees prevail 11-6 in 15 innings at Fenway Park.

Mark Whiten walloped a tie-breaking homer and Wade Boggs added a three-run blast against their old club in a six-run 15th and Mike Stanton turned in some strong relief against his former teammates in New York's marathon victory.

The Yanks scored three runs in the top of the ninth to erase a 4-2 deficit and grab a 5-4 lead. Boston bounced right back with a run in the last of the ninth to bring extra innings. Five scoreless innings followed before New York's six-run outburst.

"There's always satisfaction to beat up on your old team," said Whiten, who hit a lowly .185 with one homer in 108 at-bats with Boston in 1995. "The way I played here, then to come back and do something positive, is great."

Boggs played 11 seasons in Boston before signing with the Yankees as a free agent in 1993. Stanton, who hurled 3-2/3 innings of scoreless relief, pitched 81 games for Boston in 1995 and 1996.

Whiten hit a solo shot into the right-field bullpen off Kerry Lacy and Boggs broke an 0-for-15 slump with a three-run blast down the right-field line off Rich Garces.

Boggs, the former Boston Red Sox who batted lower than third (sixth) Saturday and Sunday for the first time since his rookie year in 1983, was booed each trip to the plate.

"It's not easy (getting booed), especially being in Boston," Boggs said. "Everybody becomes a little louder." Jeff Nelson (2-4) picked up the win.

In Milwaukee, Jose Valentin's two-run homer in the sixth inning gave the Milwaukee brewers the lead for good as they went on to a 7-4 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

At Texas, Joe Vidello and Jeff King each homered and drove in two runs as the Kansas City Royals defeated the Texas Rangers 6-2.

Vidello hit a two-run homer in the first and King added a solo shot in the fifth. Jose Rosado (4-3) retired the first 14 batters he faced. Randy Veres went the last 3 1/3 innings for his first save.

In Anaheim, Terry Steinbach continued his torrid hitting with a pair of homers, including a go-ahead solo shot in the

fifth inning, as the Minnesota Twins beat the Angels 5-4. Steinbach, who is 17-for-39 with eight RBI in his last 10 games, cracked a two-run blast off Anaheim rookie starter Matt Perisho in the top of the third before breaking a 4-4 tie against Shigetoshi Hasegawa (1-3) in the fifth.

In Oakland, Matt Stairs hit a three-run homer in the second inning and Mike Oquist came within one out of his first career complete game as the Oakland Athletics routed the Toronto Blue Jays 8-2.

Oquist (1-1) allowed two runs and 10 hits, walking two and striking out five in the longest outing of his career.

"He (Oquist) pitched great today," Toronto manager Cito Gaston said. "He did an outstanding job against us, you have to give him credit."

In Seattle, Dan Wilson hit the game-tying home run in the seventh inning and Mike blowers and Alex Rodriguez added solo shots in the eighth as the Mariners snapped a three-game losing streak with a 4-1 victory over the Detroit Tigers.

In Baltimore, the Orioles' game against the Cleveland Indians was rained out after one inning.

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------|---|
| New York | 11 | Boston | 6 |
| Oakland | 8 | Toronto | 2 |
| Milwaukee | 7 | Chicago | 4 |
| Seattle | 4 | Detroit | 1 |
| Kansas City | 6 | Texas | 2 |
| Minnesota | 5 | Anaheim | 4 |
| Cleveland at Baltimore | postponed — Rain | | |
| National League | | | |
| Atlanta | 4 | San Francisco | 3 |
| Pittsburgh | 11 | Montreal | 2 |
| Ny Mets | 8 | Philadelphia | 5 |
| Los Angeles | 6 | St Louis | 1 |
| San Diego | 6 | Houston | 3 |
| Colorado | 9 | Florida | 2 |
| Chicago | 7 | Cincinnati | 1 |

Mets keep rolling but lose Ordonez to injury

NEW YORK (R) — The hard-charging Mets notched another victory Sunday but their 8-5 win over the Philadelphia Phillies may prove to be a costly one.

Rey Ordonez had two hits and a career-high three RBI to lead the Met's attack before the flashy fielding shortstop broke a bone in his left hand that could sideline him from four to six weeks.

Butch Huskey and Alex Ochoa each added two hits and an RBI for the Mets, who have won 15 of their last 20 games and completed a three-game sweep of the Phillies. New York moved eight games over .500 for the first time since August 1991.

Ordonez entered the game with only 12 RBI this season, but he drove in a run with a bunt single in the fourth inning and delivered

a two-out, two-run triple in the seventh.

The crowd of 42,058 was the Mets' largest since opening day 1996.

"It's fun," said Mets' outfielder Bernard Gilkey. "We want to play for the people. The people make it exciting. When they show up, you want to make it exciting because they haven't been here for a while."

In St Louis, Mike Piazza, Eric Karros and Todd Zeile hit consecutive homers in the fourth inning to back the strong pitching of Chan Ho Park (4-2) as the Dodgers snapped an eight-game road losing streak with a 6-1 win over the Cards.

Los Angeles also broke a four-game losing skid and avoided a four-game sweep at St Louis.

In Atlanta, Jeff Blauser's one-out homer in the eighth inning proved to be the win-

ning run as the Atlanta Braves salvaged a split of their four-game series with a 4-3 victory over the San Francisco Giants.

Blauser's seventh homer of the season came off Jim Poole (2-1) as Atlanta, with the best record in the National League at 37-17, improved to 13-6 in one-run games.

Ryan Klesko erased a 3-0 Braves deficit with a three-run homer, his 10th, in the fourth inning. Reliever Mike Bielecki (2-3) took the win, while Mark Wohlers posted his 12th save.

In Pittsburgh, Jose Guillen hit a two-run homer to cap a five-run first inning and drove in three runs and Tony Womack and Joe Randa had two hits and two RBI apiece to lead the Pittsburgh Pirates to an 11-2 rout of the Montreal Expos.

The Pirates finally provided some run support for Francisco Cordova (4-4).

Pittsburgh had scored 29 runs in Cordova's first 10 starts and just four in his four losses.

In Houston, Tony Gwynn delivered a two-run pinch single and Ken Caminiti added a two-run double in a four-run eighth inning and the San Diego Padres rallied for their third straight win, 6-3 over the sputtering Houston Astros.

At Florida, rookie John Thomson pitched a seven-hitter for his first career win and complete game and helped his cause by going 4-for-4 with three RBI at the plate to lead the Colorado Rockies to a 9-2 rout of the Florida Marlins.

In Chicago, Jeremi Gonzalez pitched five scoreless innings and struck out seven and Shawon Dunston and Ryne Sandberg combined for five hits and five RBI to lead the Chicago Cubs to a 7-1 victory over the Cincinnati Reds.

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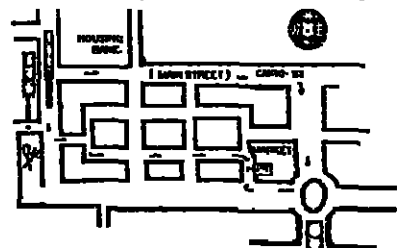
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Bruguera ousts Chang, Kuerten beats Medvedev to reach French Open quarters



Sergi Bruguera of Spain reacts after winning his match against Michael Chang of the U.S. in the French Open at Roland Garros stadium, June 2. Bruguera defeated Chang 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 (Reuters photo)

PARIS (AP) — Sergi Bruguera upset second-seeded Michael Chang in a battle of two former champions Monday, and two little-known outsiders joined him in the quarterfinals of the French Open.

Bruguera, champion in 1993 and 1994, rallied to win 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 in two hours, 54 minutes, knocking out the highest ranked man left in the field.

"It's very important for me to play well here. It was a very tough, very tiring match. I was very tight the whole match," Bruguera said.

There were two much bigger upsets, when unheralded Gustavo Kuerten and Galo Blanco also made it to the last eight.

The quarter-finals will have the fewest number of seeded players at Roland Garros in the Open era, a maximum of three. There will be at least two unseeded players in the semifinal.

Kuerten, conqueror of former champion and No. 5 Thomas Muster, completed a five-set victory over Andrei Medvedev.

Kuerten won 5-7, 6-1, 6-2, 1-6, 7-5 in a match that had been suspended by darkness Sunday at 2-2 in the fifth set.

Blanco, a Spaniard ranked No. 111 in the world, beat Petr Korda 1-6, 6-1, 7-5, 6-4. Korda was runner-up here in 1992.

One of the lowest-ranked players to make the cut, Blanco bowed to flag-waving Spanish fans, and said, "It's incredible, a dream for me. I can't explain it."

Blanco won only one of seven matches he played this year before the French Open. He has never won a match on a surface other than clay and has never played on either grass or carpet. This is his fourth Grand Slam tournament.

He was Spanish junior champion in 1994, when he beat Carlos Moya.

The 16th-seeded Bruguera, who has been battling ankle, knee and shoulder injuries the past two years, broke Chang to go up 5-4 in the fourth set.

Chang saved one match point but Bruguera converted the next with a forehand on the line. He then pumped his right arm into the air.

Chang said many of his shots missed by little. "That really made a big difference," he said. "I probably should have attacked a little bit more," Chang said.

Kuerten became the second Brazilian to reach the quarter-finals at Roland Garros, after Thomas Koch in 1968.

"It's the best week in my life... I feel so good on the court. I feel that every shot I try, I make it," Kuerten said.

Kuerten, ranked No. 66 in the world, held a match point at 5-4 with Medvedev serving, but the Brazilian hit a forehand into the net.

The Brazilian squandered two more match points, both on forehand errors, with Medvedev serving at 6-5 for Kuerten. On the next point, Kuerten raced forward to retrieve a drop shot, flipping a short lob over Medvedev's head. The Ukrainian raced back but hit a backhand into the net to give Kuerten the victory.

Even though he was unseeded, Medvedev had been considered a contender for the title. He was a semifinalist at Roland Garros in 1993.

Kuerten's opponent in the quarterfinals will be defending champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

Two more unseeded giantkillers have also reached the final eight, Magnus Norman of Sweden, who had ousted top-ranked Pete Sampras, and 124th-ranked Filip Dewulf of Belgium, who upset No. 8 Alex Corretja.

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Snippets from Roland Garros

Gone with the wind: The swirling winds that whipped up a "claystorm" at Roland Garros on Sunday caused the players huge problems. But perhaps understandably meteorological conditions on the winners' side of the net were infinitely better. Spain's fourth-round loser Alex Corretja, who lost to Belgian qualifier Filip Dewulf, said: "I think today was one of the worst matches in my life because I never played in such bad conditions." And towering Swiss Marc Rosset, who lost to Swedish underdog Magnus Norman on Sunday, complained: "When you're ready to hit and you get the ball in the face because the wind is pushing it towards you, it creates a bit of doubt." Norman, however, replied: "I don't know if the wind was blowing more on his side of the net..."

Another ending long wait: Australian tennis fans have been waiting for more than a quarter of a century for a three of their players to reach the men's last-16. It happened this year when Mark Philippoussis, Mark Woodforde and Patrick Rafter all won their third-round matches. "My mom and dad hadn't even thought about me then," said 24-year-old Rafter.

Stringing them along: A hard-working team of racket stringers has been on duty round the clock at Roland Garros. Each member of the 14-strong team strings up to 20 rackets per day, taking around 12 minutes for each. Michael Chang is their best customer. The 1989 winner takes in nine rackets every day. World number-one Pete Sampras, who uses at least five rackets per match, was generally considered the fussiest of the players insisting on exact tension and then keeping his rackets in a fridge on court to keep them taut. Among the women, racket breaker-in-chief is Mary Pierce of France. Before her match with Seles, Pierce got through four and then used another four during the game.

Keeping it in the family: Zimbabwe's Wayne and Byron Black were swept away in the opening rounds of the men's singles by Chile's Marcelo Rios. But that's not the end of the 'Black show' at Roland Garros. Their 18-year-old sister Cara is out to show them how to do it as she begins her mixed-doubles campaign in the junior tournament alongside Irina Seljulina of Kazakhstan. Keeping it in the family is father Don, who coaches the talented trio. The Blacks are not the only tennis clan here. The Sanchez family have been coming for years. Two-times champion Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario is here with Emilio, her brother and coach. Her other brother Javier crashed out in the first round of the men's singles to Mark Woodforde.

Mirror mirror on the wall ...: Catherine and Nathalie, long-serving hairdressers at Roland Garros, have kept a book containing locks of hair from the scalps of the stars. And by doing so they have worked their way into the good books of former champion Jim Courier. The good-natured American, wrote them a few words inside. "Thanks for making me so handsome. It wasn't easy."

What the stars are saying at the French Open

"If I see the ball on the line I cannot say it was 'out'. I have to be honest — even if it's a breakpoint or advantage for him..." — Spain's eighth-seeded Alex Corretja who gave a point which had been awarded to him by his opponent during Sunday's fourth-round loss to Belgium's Filip Dewulf.

"I've never seen anything like it. It disrupted my concentration tremendously. Part of me was wishing that they would stop. Another part was saying 'keep going. This is really exciting'. I was trying to stay focused, which almost worked against me because Mary seemed pretty relaxed. She was laughing..." — three-times champion Monica Seles on the 'Mexican waves' from the crowd which halted her fourth-round victory over Mary Pierce for several minutes late in the second set.

"I'm not going to play mixed-doubles. I think right now I have enough problems to play singles and women's doubles..." — World No. 1 Martina Hingis asked if she was considering playing mixed doubles at future tournaments.

"Aggressiveness and patience..." — defending champion Steffi Graf asked what her tactics would be to beat her 'jinx' player Amanda Coetzer of South Africa in the quarter-finals.

"I still can't believe it. I will believe it when I see it with my own eyes in the newspaper..." — qualifier Filip Dewulf after becoming the first Belgian ever to reach the quarter-final of a Grand Slam event by beating eighth-seed Alex Corretja of Spain.

"What are dreams for? If you've lost to somebody ten times in a row — that's all you can depend on..." South Africa's Amanda Coetzer after defeating seventh-seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain for the first time in eleven encounters.

"I don't know if the wind was blowing more on his side of the net..." — Sweden's Magnus Norman after hearing that opponent Marc Rosset of Switzerland had blamed the wind for his fourth-round defeat.

Bailey wins showdown after Johnson hobbled by injury

TORONTO (R) — A \$1.5-million, sprint showdown between Olympic champions Donovan Bailey and Michael Johnson sputtered to an anti-climactic conclusion on Sunday when Johnson pulled up lame with a leg injury.

And then things got interesting. Bailey, who crossed the 150-metre finish line unchallenged in 14.99 seconds, called Johnson "a chicken." The Canadian led Johnson out of the blocks and his lead was increasing when the American abandoned the race at the 100-metre mark.

On a specially-installed, two-lane track at Skydome, Bailey burst out of the starting blocks with an uncharacteristically fast reaction time almost two-hundredths of a second quicker than Johnson. At 50-metres, Bailey was timed in 5.74 seconds to Johnson's 5.83.

When the two sprinters flashed around the 75-metre curve, Bailey had a two-stride lead and was still accelerating. Bailey's 100-metre time was 10.24 seconds. Johnson's 100-metre time was 10.63 seconds.

Coming out of the turn, double-Olympic champion Johnson grimaced and grabbed at his left thigh, then slowed to a stop. Bailey roared in exultation at the cheering crowd of some 25,000 at the Skydome.

After the race, Bailey told Canadian television what he thought of Johnson: "He's just a chicken."

Then at a press conference, Bailey said: "I don't regret the chicken comment at the end of the race. Michael and I don't have a lot of words to say. Michael knew he was going to get hammered after 30 metres."

The two sprinters shook hands after the race before Johnson, the 200- and 400-metre Olympic champion and 200-metre world record holder, went to receive treatment for what he said was a quadriceps injury to his left leg.

Bailey received \$1 million for the win. Each sprinter also received a \$500,000 appearance fee.

Johnson, 29, said he felt the injury as he was coming around the 75-metre curve. "I felt the cramp grab, then it let go," he said. "I kept going, but I felt it again and it was much worse."

Asked to respond to being called a chicken by Bailey, Johnson said: "It shows a lot about the kind of person he is and I'm not going to address this. I've always had respect for Donovan as an athlete."

Organisers of the event originally attempted to bill it as a showdown to determine the world's fastest man. Bailey refused to agree. And in his post-race press conference he reiterated his stance.

"I've always said this race wasn't going to prove who the world's fastest man was. It was just going to shut Michael Johnson up," said Bailey. "I have nothing to prove. Michael Johnson needed the title since he thrives on attention."

Asked if Bailey deserved to be called the

world's fastest man, Johnson said: "It's up to everyone to make their own opinions on the title of world's fastest man. I lost the race. If you want to call him (Bailey) that, I have no problems with that."

The Bailey-Johnson showdown was preceded by an undercard of four match-ups in which each competitor received a \$100,000 appearance fee. Organisers also promised a \$1 million bonus for any athlete who set a world record.

In the women's 100-metre hurdles, reigning Olympic champion Ludmila Enquist of Sweden overpowered Jamaican Michelle Freeman. Enquist finished in 12.82 seconds, while Freeman clocked 12.96.

South African Okkert Britts beat American Lawrence Johnson in the pole vault showdown. Britts cleared 5.90 metres on his second attempt and gamely tried twice to clear 6.15 metres. Had he done so he would have been eligible for the \$1 million world record bonus.

But on each attempt at 6.15 metres, Britts clipped the bar with his feet. Lawrence Johnson managed to clear 5.75 metres before failing on three attempts at 5.90.

Germany's Heike Drechsler beat long-time rival Jackie Joyner-Kersey of the United States in an uninspiring display in the women's long jump.

Drechsler's best jump of the day was 6.82 metres, well off the world mark of 7.37 metres. Joyner-Kersey, who flew into Toronto some three hours before the event, jumped 6.79 metres, far off her personal best of 7.20 metres.

Joyner-Kersey said the one-on-one event format is a good way to try to revive interest in the sport of athletics even though it's tough on the competitors.

"The one-on-one will add another dimension to track and field," said Joyner-Kersey. "But it's tough to jump back-to-back. It really tested our endurance."

Each long jumper had six attempts and 90 seconds in which to complete each attempt.

Drechsler, the 1992 Olympic long jump champion, likened the event to a show and said: "It's very important to make this for track and field. Especially in Canada where track and field is nothing. Maybe this is the start of something."

Olympic high jump champion Charles Austin of the United States handily beat three-time Olympic medalist Patrik Sjöberg of Sweden. Austin jumped 2.30 metres to Sjöberg's best of 2.20 metres.

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French women almost double their seats in new parliament

PARIS (AFP) — France's parliament is in for a culture shock after a vote that will see almost twice as many women plumped on the soft red benches of what was once almost an exclusively masculine seat of power.

Official results Monday of the two-round May 25-June 1 vote for the 577-seat national assembly showed a total 63 women winning admission to the lower parliamentary chamber, almost twice as many as the previous tiny 35.

It is hardly a grand entry on the scale of the 120 women across the channel in Britain who trooped into the House of Commons last month after the victory of Tony Blair's "new" Labour Party.

But it reflects a change nonetheless that is largely the product of the victorious Socialist Party's bid to redress a situation of sexual inequality that had left France lagging behind as the rest of the continent progressed.

Of the 63 new women members, 42 ran for the Socialists, who last year

adopted a 30 per cent quota system to help bolster women's political rights.

Of the others, four are Communists, three are Greens, two are left-wingers, while the outgoing centre-right Coalition, caught napping on the front for sexual equality, has 12.

Though women make up 53 per cent of the French electorate, thus commanding a certain authority over the result of any poll, only an itty-bitsy six per cent of the country's womenkind — or 35 women members — sat in the outgoing Conservative parliament. In hard arithmetic, that is the second lowest figure in Europe after Greece.

Women and politics have never gone hand in hand in France, the country which prides itself on the slogan from the French revolution, "liberty, equality and fraternity."

French women were among the last in Europe to win the right to vote, in 1944, after decades of struggle and after less developed countries such as Turkey, the Philippines and Brazil.

And General Charles de Gaulle is said to have scoffed prior to his 1969 departure as president — "a ministry for women? Why not a ministry for knitting?"

President Jacques Chirac in May set sexual equality as one of his few concrete pledges should his ruling centre-right coalition win the battle.

Women, he said, "embody modernism and willingness to listen, values which our society aspires towards. I personally pledge to do all I can to allow them to fully take part in the economic and political life of France."

That provides at least one policy stand on which he and new Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin are bound to agree.

Ex-premier Alain Juppe, whose side lost the general election, had only 8.8 per cent women running for the Conservative camp.

Mr. Juppe, moreover, was still smarting from an episode that smacked of tokenism. In May 1995, he appointed 12 women to his cabinet — nicknamed the "Juppettes" — a play on

words that also meant small skirts — only to sack eight of them six months later when he trimmed the cabinet to trim the deficit.

Last March, in an unprecedented move to make things right, he proposed a change in the constitution to enforce minimum representation for women through a quota system. Unfortunately, Mr. Chirac decided on April 21 to call the election even before the proposal became law.

Meanwhile, Mr. Jospin's socialists pushed their better-known women political leaders to the forefront of the campaign for the election and the new premier is expected to name at least five women ministers in a 15-member cabinet.

The likes of former Minister Martine Aubry, daughter of ex-European supreme Jacques Delors, Strasbourg Mayor Catherine Trautmann, and former ministers Elisabeth Guigou and Segolene Royal are in line for portfolios.

Another blast on last day of Algerian election campaign

ALGIERS (AFP) — Ten people were killed and 40 others wounded Monday in the third bomb attack in two days in the Algerian capital, hours before campaigning was about to end in Thursday's legislative election.

The latest blast, at 8:33 a.m., hit a busy covered neighbourhood market near Lyre Street in the Casbah, Algiers' old quarter and a reputed stronghold of Islamic radicals.

"I saw several bodies lying in the street and covered with sheets," a young man living in the area told AFP. "The blast created a panic."

Ambulances and police cars with sirens wailing converged on the site of the explosion, which was strong enough to be heard by journalists at a hotel two kilometres.

Algeria, an oil and gas producing nation of 28 million that is North Africa's largest country, was already in shock over bombings that hit the heart of Algiers Sunday.

Officially, seven people were killed and 77 injured when bombs destroyed two buses in the capital, where some 200 international poll observers and dozens of foreign journalists have gathered to cover the election.

But the Al Watan newspaper put the death toll in Sunday's blasts at 10, in a report that blamed "armed Islamic groups" for the worst act of violence in the capital since the election campaign began in mid-May.

"Islamism wants to admit

no limits," the French-language daily said in an editorial on its front page.

Beefing up security, the authorities Monday closed wholesale food markets and barred general transport and tanker trucks from the roads — measures taken at previous elections.

Thursday's election is the first for the national people's assembly since the military in 1992 blocked a victory at the polls by the now-banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), triggering a brutal conflict with armed Islamic groups that has claimed more than 60,000 lives.

President Liamine Zeroual views the election as a symbol of victory over extremism in his oil and gas rich nation, but the bombings were clearly meant as a challenge to his authority.

Yet in a display of confidence, Mr. Zeroual, a veteran army general who is also minister of defence, kept to his schedule and left Sunday for the Zimbabwean capital Harare for an Organisation of African Unity summit.

He was due back Wednesday, election eve.

On the other side of the Mediterranean Sea, advance polls opened Monday for the big Algerian community in France, the colonial power in Algeria before 1962. More than 620,000 people there are entitled to vote.

Special polling stations also opened for the 123,000-strong regular armed forces and for nomads in the Sahara desert.

In Algiers, campaign finales by the major parties in the crowded electoral field — there are 39 parties and 7,747 candidates in the running — were set for later Monday.

Tuesday and Wednesday have been set aside as "cooling off" days, in a campaign that has drawn little enthusiasm particularly among the 75 per cent of Algerians under the age of 30.

High unemployment, inflation, housing shortages, poor education and the seemingly endless cycle of violence have all been issues, as North Africa's biggest country in area struggles to liberalise its economy.

With no reliable opinion polls available, the biggest parties are the National Democratic Rally (RND), founded by Zeroual loyalists including Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia, and the Movement for a Peaceful Society (MSP), the main legal Islamist party, formerly called Hamas.

Others are the Berber-based Socialist Forces Front (FFS), the Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD), and the National Liberation Front (FLN), which ruled Algeria without contest from independence until it bowed to street protests for greater democracy in 1988.

In Tunis, the Union of Arab Lawyers Sunday condemned what it called "blind terrorism" in Algeria, carried out by "small groups under the cover of religion."

Such violence, it said, would only bring prejudice to the Islamic faith.

Netanyahu's blood boils over book alleging Sara is jealous

TEL AVIV (AP) — Benjamin Netanyahu, the first Israeli prime minister to thrust his family into the limelight, said Monday a new book portraying his wife as jealous and pushy made his "blood boil."

Mr. Netanyahu's wife, Sarah, has been haunted by unflattering publicity since Mr. Netanyahu became Israel's prime minister a year ago. Topics of media coverage have included the first lady's firing a nanny for burning a pot of soup, and her tendency to wear mini skirts when inappropriate, such as on visits to Arab capitals.

The latest furore was created by a new book, "Netanyahu: the road to power," by Israeli journalists Ben Caspit and Ilan Kfir, it is to be published in Hebrew later this week.

The book says that in the

spring of 1996, on the eve of the formation of the Netanyahu government.

Mrs. Netanyahu took a phone call at her home from Limor Livnat, a leading figure in her husband's Likud Party. Mrs. Netanyahu, the prime minister's third wife, refused to put through the call, the book said.

"It's Friday evening," Mrs. Netanyahu told Mr. Livnat, according to the book. "I ask you not to phone at these hours. Bibi is with the children. You're always phoning and it's very troublesome."

"That's not true," Mr. Livnat responded. "I hardly ever phone you at these hours. And apart from that, it was Bibi who asked me to phone."

Mrs. Netanyahu, a former flight attendant, said she had asked her husband's senior aide to intervene so Mr. Livnat would not call the

prime minister's residence again, the book said.

When Mrs. Netanyahu again refused to put Mr. Livnat through, Mr. Livnat responded: "You're quite mad. Now I believe everything I've heard about you."

Two minutes later, Mr. Netanyahu called Mr. Livnat and apologised, said the book, excerpts of which were carried on Israel TV and in a newspaper. Mr. Livnat is communications minister in Mr. Netanyahu's cabinet.

Mr. Netanyahu said Monday the incident was blown out of proportion, and that his wife did not interfere in his political decisions.

Mr. Netanyahu angrily slammed the media for focusing on his family. "Forgive me for being very angry at these things. It makes my blood boil," he said.

Nurse's brother feels no choice but to play God

ADELAIDE (R) — Stroking his bushy grey beard at the kitchen table of his mother's old house in suburban Adelaide, Frank Gilford says he does not want to play God.

But the 59-year-old parcel courier from a small country town in southern Australia feels he may have no option but to send two British nurses to their death if they are convicted in a Saudi Arabian court of murdering his sister Yvonne.

His big worry, he says, is that if he does not insist on the maximum penalty — beheading — they will be let off lightly.

A few years in a Saudi jail and they would be free to return to Britain, sell their story and besmirch his sister's name — or worse, kill again.

"It seems to be the maximum on one side and nothing on the other, there does not seem to be any middle road," he says.

Mr. Gilford has driven with his wife Laurel the few hours south from his home in Jamestown, south Australia, to the house where he last saw his sister, in May 1996, before her official papers to nurse in the rich Islamic nation came through.

He is on his way to visit his 84-year-old mother, Muriel, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease and now lives in a nursing home here, unaware her son has been thrust into an extraordinary legal and moral position since her daughter's death.

The Gilfords will not tell her of the soul-searching they say has gone on for months — "the agonising, the thoughts, the horror" — since they learned that, under Saudi law, a murder victim's family can call for death, grant forgiveness or take financial compensation known as blood money.

They will not tell her of the barrage of calls they have taken in the week — 600 at last count, mainly from Australian and British media — after the Saudi court hearing the murder case adjourned to allow the accused, Deborah Parry and Lucille McLaughlan, to appeal for mercy.



WAVING TO CELEBRATE, YET WAVING GOODBYE: French Prime Minister and Mayor of Bordeaux Alain Juppe and his wife Isabelle wave to celebrate Mr. Juppe's win to a seat in the National Assembly Sunday night. Mr. Juppe lost his premiership when his Conservative coalition was defeated by the French Socialist Party in parliamentary runoff elections (Photo by Reuters)

Islamist Turk premier calls for snap election

ANKARA (R) — Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan called for snap elections to resolve a row between his Islamist-led coalition and Turkey's secularist generals, but the way forward was not immediately clear.

No date was set for polling and there were no guarantees that a complicated handover of power would not go awry and give the opposition a chance to set up its own secularist government.

Mr. Erbakan, the first Islamist to head the government of modern Turkey, committed himself to stepping down in favour of coalition ally Tansu Ciller, a secular conservative, within a month as part of a deal to go for early elections.

"The election can be held in a short time by updating the electoral roll. I don't think there will be a need for a long process," he said.

Mr. Erbakan must first give his resignation to President Suleyman Demirel, a veteran of the volatile political scene in Turkey, a secular state with an overwhelmingly Muslim population.

According to political tradition, Mr. Demirel, an avowed secularist, should

nominate the party leader with the most members of parliament to produce a feasible cabinet list.

Mr. Erbakan, whose Islam-based Welfare Party has 159 deputies, is likely to get the task and choose a cabinet with Ms. Ciller as prime minister to steer the country into elections.

But in practice any government headed by Ms. Ciller, whose reputation has been damaged by corruption allegations, would face a major obstacle in trying to survive a vote of confidence within days of taking over.

The present coalition government, battered by anti-Islamist defections, lost its absolute majority last week and now has 275 deputies in the 550-seat chamber.

Ms. Ciller should be sure of the Welfare Party votes but a current effort to recruit seven far-right deputies to her side could easily be cancelled out by further defections to the opposition from her True Path Party.

Similarly, an election law to fix the poll date could run into trouble in the national assembly without the support of the opposition. Many deputies from all parties are reluctant to see fresh polls in case they lose their parliamentary privileges.

It was also unclear which parties might profit from elections. The Welfare Party is widely believed to have increased its share of the vote since it polled 21 per cent in general elections at the end of 1995, but few reliable opinion polls have been published recently.

Press reports say Mr. Erbakan wants a quick poll but Ms. Ciller, a U.S.-trained economist, is holding out for a date next year. Elections would not normally be due until the year 2000.

The Welfare Party itself stands accused of threatening Turkey's secular system and could be closed down if it loses the case in the constitutional courts in about six months time.

The case was part of an assault on the Islamists by the secularist elite. The army, which has staged three coups since 1960, declared last month that its struggle against Islamists was a matter of "life or death" for Turkey, a member of NATO.

Secularist pressure diverted Mr. Erbakan from his aim of increasing the role of Islam in public life at home and improving relations with Turkey's Muslim neighbours.

Ex-U.S. soldier aiding Iraqis under sanctions

BAGHDAD (AP) — Erik Gustafson, who fought against Iraq as an American soldier in the 1991 Gulf war, has come to Baghdad as a member of a group trying to help the Iraqi people survive under United Nations sanctions.

"I came to witness the impact of the sanctions imposed on Iraq," Mr. Gustafson said Sunday. "I am terrified at the fact that many people are dying due to the sanctions."

Mr. Gustafson, 26, who was in the U.S. army stationed in Saudi Arabia during the war, is now a student in the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He is travelling with a group called Voices in the Wilderness, which is channeling donations to Iraqi hospitals.

The sanctions, imposed by the U.N. Security Council after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, prevent the sale of oil, the country's major export, devastating the economy and leaving average Iraqis with barely enough to live on.

Under a Security Council resolution, the sanctions cannot be lifted until Iraq destroys its weapons of mass destruction. Iraq maintains it has met that requirement, but U.N. weapons inspectors accuse the government of President Saddam Hussein of trying to circumvent the resolution.

Two weeks ago, U.N. official Yasushi Akashi reported conditions in Iraq were deplorable — particularly a shortage of medicines — despite the U.N. programme allowing the country to sell \$2 billion in oil over six months to buy food and medicines.

Barbara Lubin, 55, of Berkeley, Calif., another member of the Chicago-based Voices in the Wilderness, said she has been to Baghdad three times, helping to deliver \$900,000 in donations to hospitals.

Mr. Gustafson told the Associated Press he saw the trip as a way to reconcile with Iraq. "I feel bad because the U.S. government is not helping the Iraqis to rebuild what was destroyed during the war," he said. "I have seen hospitals full of sick children with no proper medical supplies to treat them. ... They need all the help they can get."



Prostitute and customer end up in Lebanese jail

BEIRUT (AFP) — A Lebanese high-roller who paid for sexual favours with a \$10,000 rubber cheque was thrown into jail along with the aggrieved Romanian exotic dancer who denounced him, press reports said Monday. A 37-year-old man identified only as Antoine quaffed bottles of champagne or whisky for a month at the establishment of exotic dancer Tamara before stumping up the suspect cheque for a "night of passion," said the Al Nahar newspaper. Tamara ran to the bank the next day to cash in her bonanza pay day, only to be told the cheque was worthless. When the angry woman went to the police station to make a formal complaint against her client, police arrested her for prostitution and Antoine for bouncing the cheque.

Philippine bishop tells brides to button up

MANILA (R) — A Philippine Roman Catholic bishop said there was a worrying tendency among brides to reveal a little bit too much of themselves at church weddings. Manila Bishop Teodoro Bacani was quoted by the Philippine Star as comparing it to wearing a swimsuit to a function at the presidential palace. "There are times when instead of saying 'the body of Christ', I am tempted to say 'Christ, what a body,'" he said. "Do things in the right place," he warned. "I don't want this practice to spread."

Five Belgians claim underwater monopoly record

AALST (R) — Five members of a Belgian diving club claimed a new Guinness Book of Records entry after playing underwater monopoly for over 30 hours. Belga news agency said. The five men, all members of the Aalst Diving Club in central Belgium, completed their marathon board game series after 30 hours and 15 minutes, beating the previous record of nine hours and 30 minutes, Belga said.

Eighteen Siberians die from poisonous vodka

MOSCOW (R) — Eighteen people died over a three-day period from drinking poisonous vodka in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, police said. The bad vodka, made from methylated spirits, poisoned 31 people altogether, killing 18 between Thursday and Saturday, a duty police officer said by telephone from Krasnoyarsk. Seven died in hospital, the rest at home or in the streets, he said. The people who sold the vodka were arrested and the alcohol was being tested, he added. The number of alcohol-related deaths in Russia has more than doubled during the 1990s as many vendors have offered cheap moonshine dressed up in fancy bottles to a public eager for bargains.

Giant HK lanterns might get stuck in Pearl River

HONG KONG (R) — A fleet of giant lanterns in the shape of pandas and other animals will sail from China to Hong Kong on barges to mark the territory's handover to Chinese control on July 1, but their size could leave them stuck on the Pearl River. Storms could raise water levels in the river during the 20-hour voyage from Jiangmen in Guangdong province so that some of the lanterns would be unable to pass under bridges, the South China Morning Post newspaper said on Monday.